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**RE-INTRODUCING
OUR SIGNERS
of the Declaration of
Independence**

**By
Raymond E. Addis**

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Holly, Michigan

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For Uncle Sam's '
loyal nieces and nephews,
naturally including John, Ralph and Bill.

IN APPRECIATION

My grandfather, Ephraim Addis, was a native of Warren County, New Jersey, and a pioneer of Michigan and the Saginaw Valley. His vivid tales of Michigan in the early days and of New Jersey during the American Revolution implanted in the mind of his grandson a great love for local and American History. I deeply revere his memory and that of his son and my father, Peter Addis. No happier moments were ever spent by father and son together than those of our gravestone search in three New Jersey cemeteries on a bright October day in 1932.

I am grateful to the late Captain M. D. Elliott. This grand old Civil War Veteran left a heritage that cannot be measured in dollars and cents: an historical library that his hungry son-in-law has avidly devoured for hours at a time. Information in these old volumes furnished the incentive to write the biographies of our Signers.

The talented artist, Morton Logan Booth, designed the front cover. I express my gratitude to him.

I am also grateful to: D. W. McClellan in the Library of Congress; Paul North Rice, Chief of the Reference Department of The New York Public Library; F. H. Price, Librarian of The Free Library of Philadelphia; G. B. Krum, Chief of the Burton Historical Collection in The Detroit Public Library; Miss Eleanor L. Weart, Librarian at Hopewell, New Jersey; Percy L. Lawler of Philadelphia; Miss Betty Gilbert, Washington, D. C.; Charles Carroll, Jr., of Baltimore; G. Wyckoff Cummins, Ph. D. of Belvidere, New Jersey; Francis P. Johnson of Flint and E. A. Stankrauff of Holly, Michigan.

Thank you, good friends, for inspiration, information and material which made the compilation of this volume possible.

R. E. A.

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Where Is The Sacred Sheepskin?

The Declaration of Independence reposes in its Shrine on the wall in the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., just above the case wherein rests our Constitution. Golden shutters are left ajar during the day so the many American pilgrims may view its mighty written words and famous signatures.

The two historic and sacred documents were saved from British destruction in 1814, by the timely courage of Dolly Madison, wife of President James Madison. She took them away with her from Washington and later returned them to the State Department.

The writer was surprised at the faded condition of the written words of the Declaration in comparison to the clarity of those of the Constitution when he inspected both great documents for the first time on July 15, 1940. Mr. Guy E. Kefauver, special police officer, who has guarded the sacred documents for more than twenty years informed him that the reason for the dim condition of the Declaration of Independence was not from age but because of certain processes used on it in 1820 in the making of fifty-six impressions for the families of the Signers.

Calvin Coolidge dedicated this Shrine during his administration as President of the United States.

Inside the glass counter to the left of the Shrine is seen the "Genesis of the Declaration of Independence" and under Article 11 it reads as follows:

"The Declaration of Independence is therefore a development of the first three propositions of the Virginia Bill of Rights by George Mason; of Thomas Jefferson's preamble to the Virginia Constitution; and of Richard Henry Lee's motion of June 7, 1776, which in turn is based upon the Instructions of the Virginia Convention to the Virginia delegates in the Continental Congress, May 15.

On July 19 Congress ordered that the Declaration be engrossed on parchment and signed by the delegates. This parchment was ready on August 2 and most of the signatures were affixed that day. Others were added later.

The signed parchment, which is THE Declaration of Independence, is on exhibition to the right of this exhibit."

The photostatic copy of that same Declaration of Independence is on exhibit on the next page at the right. It necessarily was reproduced small to fit the page and will not be very discernible except for the heading and the signatures but its full printed text is given on pages 68 to 71 inclusive.

FOREWORD

"When, in the course of human events,"
Old Uncle Sam re-arms in defense,
It might be a tonic to review the lives
Of an historic group whose record survives.

An I believe the time has arrived to take the tonic—in small doses—and become re-acquainted (or shall I say slightly familiar?) with the lives of those fifty-six gentlemen who, during a session in Congress on July 4, 1776, pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to make the United States of America the free land that it was yesterday, that it is today and that we expect it will be tomorrow.

What manner of men were these fifty-six Signers? Were they inspired by God Almighty?

With the help of General George Washington, our continental army, our several state militias and our young navy they brought into existence the finest and the mightiest nation in the history of the world. They were brought up in Christian homes. And the same strain of blood which flowed in their veins now flows in ours! They were Americans, God bless them. And because they were so are we.

In this mighty government, which they brought into existence, there has usually been opposition in the passing of new and good legislation. Nor should all opposition be condemned because prior to the passage of such legislation opposition has called for amendments and amendments have usually meant improvement. There was opposition to even the Declaration of Independence in that Congress of 1776. Some members present refused to sanction it and naturally their names are not among the Signers. Two names, however, are missing which it seems should really be there. One is that of Robert R. Livingston from New York. He was appointed on the committee of five to draft the document. In the famous painting of John Trumbull, reproduced on the back cover, he stands between Jefferson and Sherman. Probably the real reason for this omission will never be known, nevertheless Robert R. Livingston was an outstanding American patriot. The other name is that of Henry Wisner, also from New York. He voted for the Declaration on July fourth but did not sign the engrossed instrument.

Many unhappy incidents of our American Revolution, laid at the door of these Congressmen, were often beyond their control. Historians, in general, leave the impression with us that when Washington would call for money, food and supplies that Congress would tighten up like a wet rope-clothesline. They did not explain that the raising of money was no small task for a group of men who moved from Philadelphia to Baltimore, from Baltimore to Lancaster, from Lancaster to York and from York back to Philadelphia to keep out of the path of the British Army. They knew and so did everyone that the British were really after that insurgent legislative outfit who dared defy the high and mighty George III. At the

FOREWORD

same time the sympathetic common people had not too much confidence in their newly-formed-couldn't-stay-put government and if the honest farmers and merchants around them had any hard cash many of them proceeded to bury it for a rainy day. But almost continuously good old Robert Morris was straining himself physically, mentally and financially to raise the necessary mazzuma. And in the end he never failed. Our army eventually got money. It got food. It got powder and supplies to properly finish the job.

When affairs did not run smoothly in our Revolutionary Army Congress began to get cussed. This became a habit. The habit soon spread to the citizenry and ever since, down through the generations, our current congresses have been cussed a plenty.

During Robert Morris' term as Senator under our new Constitution he said, "If you will not repose in the members of that general federal government which you yourselves have chosen, that confidence and those powers, which are necessary, you must and you will (in no very distant period) become dupes of European politics." ↙

Those words of Robert Morris ring just as true today as they did when he uttered them; and today, in this Year of Our Lord 1940, our Senators and our Representatives merit our confidence and support. They deserve a great deal of credit.

And never forget the fact that a great deal of credit is due those fifty-six members of 1776 who had the courage and fortitude to cut loose from the Mother Country. Eight of them were born on the British Isles. Many were educated there. All were Anglo-Saxon. Merrie England was a part of their very beings. But under the tyrannical domination of a simple-minded, pig-headed, Hanoverian-descended monarch they rebelled and rightly so. They had found freedom, a different kind of freedom in America. Freedom in the very air they breathed. They intended to continue breathing the same sweet pure air. They did!

Friction continued, however, after the Revolution and many historians date its real ending to 1794 with the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Ohio. Then came 1812, '13 and '14 when we were once more forced to prove our independence. Came the Civil War and more British interference. In spite of our present commendable friendship with England we should not entirely close our eyes to past history.

Despite the clashes of previous years however, the English really love us. We speak their language and England is a Democracy, the only one left in all Europe. We do not desire that England be overrun by Godless ruling conquerors and I, for one, do not believe it will be.

England has a grand and lovely queen. She represents the pure blood of the British Isles. A distant cousin—if you please—to our own George Washington, through the Warner line. Her husband, the king, only a few months ago, placed a wreath on Washington's tomb. After all these years this descendant of George III formally forgave the other George who defied the old boy and got away with it.

FOREWORD

Somehow that wreath-placing ceremony brought to mind Franklin's story of "an axe to grind." And sure enough, we now find Uncle Sam feverishly turning the grindstone while John Bull grinds his axe. I hope, as far as Uncle Sam is concerned, that the story will have a different ending than Franklin's.

I lambast the German-Hanoverians who took over the British throne beginning with 1714. I have no love for Nazis nor Fascists. But I am happy to pay tribute to the German people who came over here, assimilated the American spirit and they and their descendants have become foremost and loyal citizens, as fervid in their patriotism as those of Anglo-Saxon birth. Wendell L. Willkie, our 1940 Republican candidate for President, comes under this category. No one can dispute the fact that he is other than a model American citizen. Particularly do I pay tribute to the memory of Major General Frederick William VonSteuben, that great German, who came to Valley Forge and made an army out of a great American mob. A mob which under his training eventually triumphed and made our Declaration of Independence a living thing. The living thing that paved the way for our Constitution and Bill of Rights under which you and I now live and enjoy the blessings of liberty, of freedom of religion, of freedom of speech and of freedom of the press, a Constitution under which our young people, though born in modest circumstances and even poverty, still have opportunity to climb to the highest levels. Opportunity in spite of a certain Communistic-minded college professor who has succeeded in flooding our public schools in certain sections, with lying text-books, insinuating that there is no longer opportunity in the United States for the boy or girl born poor!

Yes, opportunity still thrives in this great Democracy where the two-party system—the best system yet devised—prevails. Our Democrats and our Republicans get mighty tense and bitter during their campaigns. Yet when the votes are counted and the smoke has cleared away, we find a pretty well united people. This is the way it should be. This is the way it must be. We are Americans!

Franklin D. Roosevelt has just been elected our President for a third term. He has broken a precedent. So what? I was very much against the idea during the campaign. But Franklin Delano Roosevelt is a great American. I have never voted for him. But I am for him now. He has a heavy burden to carry. I wish him well. He is my President and I am proud of him.

FOREWORD

In this pleasant biographical work it only follows that inasmuch as I was not here in 1776 it has been necessary to refer to those historians who were, or to those who received information from the two succeeding generations. Therefore, for much enlightenment I have referred freely to the writings of William Brown, Charles Peters, John Sanderson, Robert T Conrad and Benson J. Lossing.

The reader should bear in mind that a one-page biography hardly mars the surface of the voluminous incidents of the lives of these gentlemen.

Insofar as I have been able to determine, there never has been previously published a volume or publication containing all of their pictures, their photostatic signatures and their biographies. I am happy to present the combination in this, my first book.

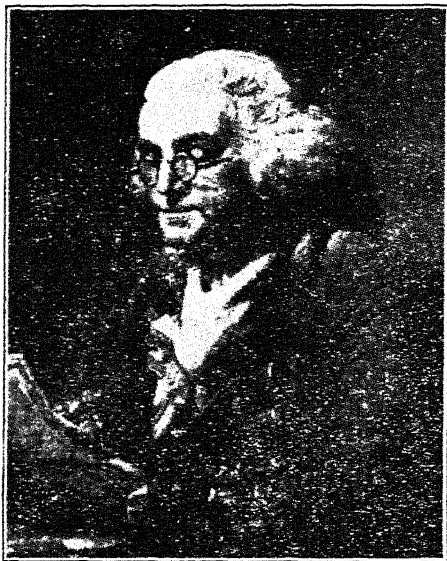
Their birth dates (when a specific date in the month is given) are according to the Old Style (Julian) Calendar then in vogue; their death-dates are under the New Style (Gregorian) Calendar, in use today and since September, 1752, when the latter was adopted by the English-speaking nations.

Although I would very much appreciate the distinction, I am not a descendant of any of the Signers. I had three ancestors, however, who served in the Jersey Militia during the American Revolution. In April of this year, my compatriots of the Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution elected me their President. I am proud of this. I am proud to be an American and I am proud to claim a twenty-one year membership in the American Legion.

I have very much enjoyed the writing of the biographies that follow. I hope you will enjoy reading them.

RAYMOND E. ADDIS

Holly, Michigan.
November 26, 1940.



Benj. Franklin

Born in Boston January 17, 1706
Died April 17, 1790

The print of Doctor Franklin is a reproduction of the painting made for his family by David Martin in London in 1767. It is known as the "thumb portrait" and was bequeathed by Franklin to the Executive Council of Pennsylvania. It is herewith presented through the courtesy of The Pennsylvania Academy of The Fine Arts.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"If one spends a dollar over his income. he is unhappy, but on the other hand, if he plans to save a little, no matter how small, his mind is free and happy."

Our fathers and mothers have often quoted this little lecture to us. The words may not sound pretty, but if we heed them we find life less painful than if we don't. Franklin, the scientist, wrote them many years ago and scientists tell the truth even though it has lately been aired that while in business in Philadelphia he wrote a few cheques without the necessary wherewithal to cover them.

Because he first submitted the most important ideas for a union of the thirteen Colonies in his Albany Plan of 1754 and because he was the OLDEST of the fifty-six Signers the venerable Benjamin Franklin, representative from Pennsylvania, is the first of that honorable body of men to be introduced.

While Thomas Jefferson wrote the masterpiece the learned, "don't-pay - too - much - for - your - whistle" Doctor Franklin, soap - maker, editor, scientist, inventor, philosopher, insurance man and diplomat, became the God-father of Jefferson's "baby" by using that ingenious touch of the successful editor to dress up the "child" for its baptism and the approval of the rest of his colleagues.

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for a people" began Jefferson's manuscript and the old editor struck out the word "a" and substituted the word "one." At the end of the long first sentence, " which impel them to threaten separation." he changed "threaten" to "the." By this document the Colonies HAD separated and Franklin wanted England and the rest of the world to know it. Each of his eleven corrections added dynamic force to the instrument.

Years later during the adoption of our National Constitution the diplomat in him came to the front to the comfort of our tired and beloved Washington. Franklin was one of the six Declaration Signers who also signed our Constitution.

Numerous and excellent biographies have been written of this great man but in the minds of the American people his outstanding qualities are industry, frugality and prudence which the sage of our Declaration of Independence and of our Constitution so diligently emphasized in his Poor Richard's Almanac.

He professed no particular religion in its entirety but he must have been deeply religious because in a portion of his editorial dated July 5, 1757 he wrote: "... but after all, do not depend too much upon your own industry, frugality and prudence, though excellent things; for they may all be blasted without the blessing of Heaven; and therefore ask that blessing humbly, and be not uncharitable to those that at present seem to want it, but comfort and help them. Remember Job suffered, and afterwards was prosperous."



Th. Jefferson

Born in Virginia April 2, 1743
Died July 4, 1826

The print of President Jefferson
is reproduced from one "Drawn
& Engraved by J. B. Longacre
from the Portrait by Field after Stuart"

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson, that unassuming representative from Virginia, little realized the fame that was to follow him as he bumped along on his 1773 model equine into Philadelphia on that sunny May morning in 1776. An expert horseman though he was, he was weary. Seven days he had sat in the saddle from Charlottesville, Virginia.

He was slightly ill spiritually and physically. He had recently buried his kind and aristocratic mother; he had left his young wife behind with small children and financial responsibilities and he himself had hardly recovered from the ague.

The weather was hot and it got hotter after he arrived. The closeness of the big city of 42,000 inhabitants—Philadelphia was then the metropolis of America—soon drove him into the suburbs where he selected spacious and airy rooms on the second floor of a three-story brick home owned by a Mr Graaf. The location, then in an open field, is now at the southwest corner of Seventh and Market Streets.

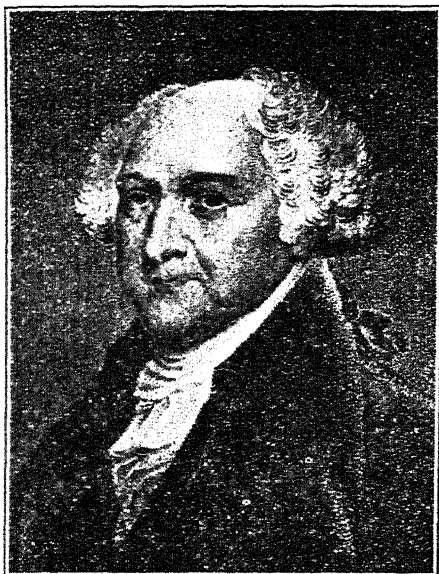
It was in this home that Thomas Jefferson wrote our Declaration of Independence. It was here where he labored over its composition while he sipped his morning saucer of coffee. It was from here that he journeyed each day to sit in Continental Congress.

Mr. Jefferson, with talents rivaling even the great Franklin's, later became our first Secretary of State under President Washington; our second Vice-President and our third President. One outstanding event transpiring under his administration was the purchase of Louisiana which doubled the size of our young nation. He served two terms as our President and refused to run for the third term. He was elected Governor of Virginia. He was the founder of the University of Virginia.

On January 1, 1772, he married the charming Mrs. Martha Wayles Skelton. Ten years later Martha died, leaving two small daughters who grew to womanhood.

During his early life, Thomas was a gay person and good company at social affairs. He had a good singing voice and played the fiddle well. He was fond of dancing, good wine and fast horses. In spite of his good looks and slender physique however (he stood six-feet-two) it was always difficult for him to speak before large audiences. This was noticeable in Congress but he was a very efficient committeeman.

Until three years before his death, he never seemed to realize the importance of his original manuscript, The Declaration of Independence. Upon his retirement from Congress he had taken it home and deposited it in his files in Monticello. Here it lay for forty-seven years before it was re-introduced to the American people. Not until then did this lonely widower, living in Monticello by the Grace of God and his creditors, fully comprehend the value of that original document from which sprang forth the greatest nation the world has ever known.



John Adams

Born in Massachusetts Oct. 19, 1735
Died July 4, 1826

The print of President Adams
is reproduced from one
"Drawn and Engraved by J. B. Longacre
from the Portrait by Field after Stuart."

JOHN ADAMS

Honest, impetuous and outspoken John Adams, from Massachusetts, was too frank, they said, to become a successful politician, but he didn't do so badly, and no more unselfish a patriot ever lived.

Along with Franklin he too aided in correcting and adding fervor to Jefferson's brain-child, the Declaration of Independence.

"The history of his present Majesty is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations . . ." wrote Jefferson and Adams changed the passage to read, "The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations . . ." Adams no longer desired to address George III as "His Majesty." He only wished to treat him as the tyrant that he was.

This descendant of John Alden, unlike his bashful ancestor, was not only endowed with the power to speak for himself but for any assemblage wherein he was placed.

A delegate to the Second Continental Congress which convened May 12, 1775 in Philadelphia he had the important distinction of being the chooser of a commander-in-chief of the American armies. This "most felicitous choice of a leader was suggested, advocated and produced by John Adams." And after much quiet and successful salesmanship among his colleagues he won his point and had the extreme pleasure of nominating, from the floor, "George Washington from Virginia!" all unbeknown to the gallant nominee. The following day the Gentleman from Virginia was unanimously elected. If John Adams had no further claim to National gratitude that act alone should place him on the pedestal in the hearts of all Americans, past, present and future!

But in addition to this and being a Signer he accomplished other goals: He served as commissioner to France and was the first United States minister to England. He was duly elected the first Vice-President and the second President of the United States and while his one term administration is not particularly outstanding he nevertheless still holds the unparalleled distinction of living to see his own son, John Quincy Adams, sworn in to the first office of our land.

In later years when political rivalry cooled the old friendship between Jefferson and himself, Jefferson was known once to have stated publicly, regarding the Declaration of Independence, in defense of his old friend, "John Adams was the pillar of its support on the floor of Congress, its ablest advocate and defender against the multifarious assaults it encountered."

Exactly a half century after the adoption of the Great Document and within three hours apart these two reconciled old warriors, Tom and John, peacefully left their worldly cares behind.



John Hancock

Born in Massachusetts in 1737
Died Oct. 8, 1793

The print of Mr. Hancock
is reproduced from one "Drawn &
Engraved by J. B. Longacre from
Portrait by Field after Stuart."

JOHN HANCOCK

John Hancock, representative from Massachusetts, was the son of a clergyman of the same name. The father died during his son's infancy but from then on the young man was ably looked after by a paternal uncle, a distinguished merchant of Boston, who gave John a Harvard education and a solid business training.

On a business mission to England in 1760 he attended the funeral rites of George II and the coronation ceremonies of George III. And what a thorn in the side of the new monarch this young upstart turned out to be!

When John was 27 his uncle died leaving his beloved nephew one of the largest fortunes in the Province of Massachusetts and shortly thereafter John eased up on his commercial pursuits to become a politician. He soon allied himself with Samuel Adams, a man many years his senior, and one of those boys who had "gone through the wringer financially" a while previous, so that now his tastes were simple while Hancock went in for pomp and splendor.

When John Hancock rode on public occasions he didn't do things by halves. His chariot was pulled by six beautiful bays, accompanied by servants in livery. His own apparel "was sumptuously embroidered with gold, silver and lace, and decked by such other ornaments as were fashionable amongst men of fortune of that day. He was graceful and prepossessing in his manners and very passionately addicted to what are called the elegant pleasures of life, dancing, music, concerts, bouts, assemblies, card parties, rich wines, social dinners, and festivities; all of which the stern republican virtues of Mr. Adams regarded with indifference; if not with contempt."

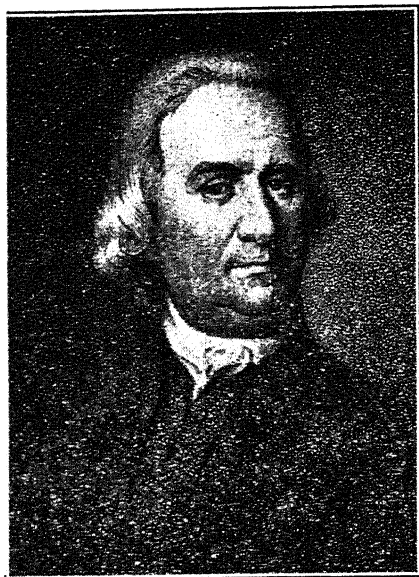
In 1774 he was chosen a delegate to the First Continental Congress and re-elected to the Second in 1775. Succeeding Peyton Randolph he was elected President of the Congress, the most exalted station possessed by an American of that time. He filled the chair admirably on that momentous date of July fourth, 1776 when he first signed the Declaration of Independence.

Of that famous signature the historian, Benson J. Lossing said, "His bold signature, the very index of his character, has always excited the admiration of the beholder."

As to his physical description John Sanderson wrote, "In stature he was above the middle size, of excellent proportion of limbs, of extreme benignity of countenance; possessing a flexible and harmonious voice, a manly and dignified aspect."

At about the age of 35 he married Miss Quincy, a member of one of the oldest and most distinguished New England families. They had only one child, a son who died in boyhood.

Charity was the dominating virtue of his life. Hundreds of his less fortunate neighbors knew the feel of his kindness; some even to their daily bread. This was John Hancock, the man who signed his name so George III could read it without spectacles.



Sam Adams

Born in Massachusetts Sept. 22, 1722
Died Oct. 3, 1803

The print of Mr. Adams
is reproduced from one
"Drawn and Engraved by
J. B. Longacre from a painting by Copley."

SAMUEL ADAMS

If the responsibility of the American Revolution could be placed on any one man Samuel Adams, delegate from Massachusetts and second cousin to John Adams, would be it.

From the time he received his A. B. degree from Harvard in 1740 he seemed to have one obsession and that was the liberty of his fellow Americans.

Following his graduation from college he had the finest possible prospects for a successful business career. He was the oldest son of a prosperous and indulgent father who was ever ready and did back him to the limit financially, but Samuel's head was so full of politics that he had little time for business.

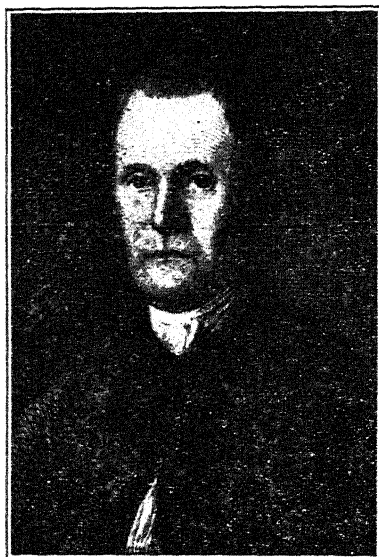
He had the sagacity however to be of great influence on his youthful friend, John Hancock. Their names are linked together in American History like those of the Gold Dust Twins. And John was very much in the gold.

These two were unquestionably the organizers of the Boston Tea Party with Adams the ringleader, but the "Indians" who actually threw the party—and the tea—would never talk very much.

In the early part of 1776 when independence was being considered and there was some doubt about the wisdom of continuing the Revolution Samuel Adams arose and in magnificent oratory said, "I should advise persisting in our struggle for liberty, though it were revealed from Heaven that nine hundred and ninety-nine were to perish, and only one of a thousand to survive and retain his liberty! One such freeman must possess more virtue, and enjoy more happiness, than a thousand slaves; and let him propagate his like, and transmit to them what he hath so nobly preserved!"

And during those dark days of late summer in 1777 when Congress had dwindled to 28 members—with 27 long faces—trying to hold sessions in Lancaster it was optimistic Samuel Adams who bolstered up their morale. "If we wear long faces", he said, "They will become fashionable. The people take their tone from ours. . . . Let us show a spirit that will keep alive the confidence of the people rather than damp their courage. Better tidings will soon arrive." Better tidings did arrive. Within a few days came news of Saratoga and Saratoga eventually brought aid from France.

Yes, Samuel Adams gave all he had to the building of our nation. Contrary to Franklin's advice he spent all his scarce money for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Later in the public service of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts he continued to spend as he went so that when the poor fellow came to die he wouldn't have had enough to bury him if his only son—inheriting the good business judgment of his lovable grandfather—had not preceded him and left sufficient sums for the remedy of his patriotic father's "honourable poverty."



Roger Sherman

Born in Massachusetts April 19, 1721
Died July 23, 1793

The print of Mr. Sherman
is reproduced from "an Engraving
by S. S. Jocelyn, New Haven, Conn.,
from a Painting by Earle."

ROGER SHERMAN

This Connecticut Yankee from Massachusetts can be classed a self-made man. He was the second oldest son of a large family and early in life became apprenticed to a shoemaker. His childhood education had been sadly neglected but while at work on his bench he would place a book where he could read it while he worked on soles.

When he was 19 however, his father died and the support of a large family at once became his duty, so for three years, he tilled the family's stony farm at Stonington, Massachusetts, until 1744 when his mother sold the place and the family moved to New Milford, Connecticut, near the older married brother.

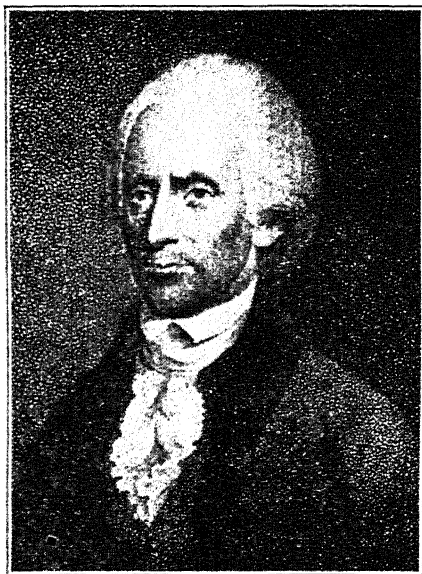
Roger carried his shoemaker tools with him and began his trade again in New Milford. He continued to study as he worked and he acquired such a fine knowledge of mathematics that at the age of 27 he had devised some astronomical calculations for an almanac that was published in New York. Eventually he took up the study of law—from borrowed books—and in December of 1754 he was admitted to the bar. One year later he was elected to the General Assembly of Connecticut and his political life began.

In 1761 he moved to New Haven where his jurist reputation followed him. Here he was chosen Treasurer of Yale College and from here he received his honorary degree of A. M. More elections and political appointments followed until 1774 when he was elected to represent Connecticut in the First Continental Congress. Mr. Sherman's words and judgment carried much weight in Congress. He was one of the five appointed on that famous committee with Jefferson, Franklin, Adams and Robert R. Livingston to draft the Declaration of Independence. It seems however that detail work irked him as well as it did Livingston and the work fell on the other three but Sherman happily signed the document.

He was a signer of the Articles of Confederation under the young Republic and was one of the six Declaration Signers who also signed the Constitution. After the Revolution he served as mayor of New Haven and held the offices of both Congressman and Senator in Washington's first administration.

In person he stood about a half-inch over six feet. His carriage was erect and well-proportioned; his complexion very fair. He was plain of dress but exceptionally neat and clean in appearance. He was kind to all classes and constant to his large family and friends.

While living in New Milford, at the age of 28, he married Elizabeth Hartwell of Stoughton, Massachusetts, and she bore him five children. Elizabeth died in 1760 and after he moved to New Haven he married Rebecca Prescott of Danvers, Mass., and to this union eight more children were born.



Richard Henry Lee

Born in Virginia Jan. 20, 1732
Died June 19, 1794

The print of Mr. Lee is reproduced from one "Engr. by P. Maverick & J. B. Longarce, from a drawing by Longarce from an original miniature."

RICHARD HENRY LEE

Certain Americans who were in the Fourth grade back in the early part of this century will possibly recall these lines from Baldwin's Reader: "At last, on the 7th of June 1776, Richard Henry Lee arose and, in clear, sharp tones that rang into the very street, offered this resolution: 'Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent States, and all political connection between us and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.' "

Thus did Richard Henry Lee, the "Cicero of America," and the sweet-toned and convincing orator, light the fire for independence.

Thus did that section of Virginia in which he was born—only a few miles from, and only a few days prior to the birth of George Washington—furnish two most memorable, capable and distinguished gentlemen who aided most extensively in the birth of the United States of America.

Being in one of the noblest families of the Old Dominion his father sent him, while still a boy, to England to be educated. Here at Wakefield in Yorkshire he became deeply interested in the history of the Old World Republics and before he was 17 he became so vitally attached to the principles of civil liberty that he was ready to fight for them when he returned home at the age of 18.

At the age of 20 he formed a military corps in his neighborhood and was elected to its command. In a few months he offered the services of this corps to General Braddock in the proposed expedition against the French and Indians. Deeply mortified at the rejection by the British General he returned home with his troops and never forgot the insult.

His name is closely linked with that of Patrick Henry. They were lifelong friends. Henry's oratory was described as "overwhelming might" and Richard's as "resistless persuasion."

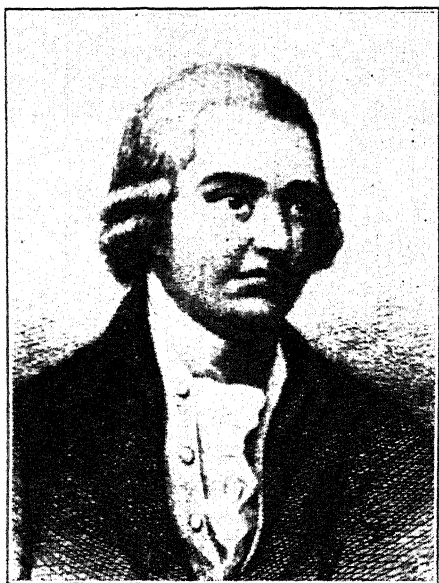
He had the honor of putting in his own handwriting that sacred commission to General George Washington as commander-in-chief of our Continental Army.

Of his family Sanderson says, "A numerous family of children, the offspring of two marriages, clustered around and clung to each other in fond affection."

The very day he offered his famous resolution in congress an express, arriving from Virginia, announced serious illness in his immediate family and he departed at once for home. Consequently, Thomas Jefferson, and not he, was given the chairmanship of the drafting committee. Mr. Lee signed the Declaration on August 2nd.

He was elected President of Congress on Nov. 30, 1784 and served a year in the office of the highest honor in his land.

In acclaiming Richard Henry Lee and Patrick Henry one historian said, "It would not be possible to fix with precision the amount of debt of gratitude which is due them, not only from their native state, but from the whole nation."



Ben Harrison

Born in Virginia about 1736
Died January 4, 1789

The print of Mr. Harrison
is the reproduction
of an etching by H. B. Hall
from a drawing in the Dr.
Thomas Addis Emmett collection.

BENJAMIN HARRISON

This Signer from Virginia was attending William and Mary College when he received the shocking news that his father and two of his four sisters had been instantly killed by a bolt of lightning in their mansion at Berkley. Not being on good terms anyway with one of his professors, he then left the institution before receiving his degree.

Being the oldest of six sons, he remained at home to manage the large estate left by his father, although he was then less than 21. As soon as he attained this age he was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses and shortly became its Speaker

The British Governor, aware of his immense wealth, offered him a seat on his executive council during the Stamp Act period but Harrison politely rejected the offer and attached himself more strongly to the republican cause in opposition.

He was one of the first seven delegates from Virginia to the First Continental Congress and he had the pleasure of seeing his cousin, Peyton Randolph, elected first President.

Just before he signed the engrossed copy of the Declaration, Doctor Franklin made his famous remark, "Now we must all hang together or we will all hang separately."

Standing there, a healthy and portly man, with goose-quill in hand, Mr. Harrison looked down at Elbridge Gerry, a slender little fellow, smiled and said, "When the hanging scene comes to be exhibited, I shall have all the advantage over you. It will be over with me in a minute, but you will be kicking in the air half an hour after I am gone."

In 1777 he resigned from Congress to attend his long neglected personal affairs and immediately he was again elected Speaker of the House of Burgesses. He was appointed a colonel in his county militia and was an active commanding officer during the invasion of the traitor Arnold and against Cornwallis.

In 1782 he was elected Governor of Virginia and served well and firmly during that trying period.

His passing came at about the age of 53 from the then-called disease "gout of the stomach."

Mr. Harrison married the beautiful Miss Elizabeth Bassett. They had many children and seven lived to maturity. Their third son, General William Henry Harrison, was elected the 9th President of the United States. Their great-grandson, General Benjamin Harrison, was our 23rd President.

The capable members of this grand old Virginia family continue to carry on as excellent American citizens.



Tras Hopkinson

Born in Pennsylvania in 1737
Died May 9, 1791

The print of Mr. Hopkinson is
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre and
J. H. Nesmith from a Picture by Pine."

FRANCIS HOPKINSON

Francis Hopkinson, that syncopated Signer from the Sovereign State of New Jersey, was a gentleman of rhythm. This nifty artist, poet, musician, songwriter and lawyer was one of the handsomest and best dressed gentlemen in Congress.

Through the untiring efforts of his mother who was widowed when her son, Francis, was 14 he graduated from the College of Philadelphia and became a successful lawyer. At 29 he visited England, the homeland of his parents. He remained there two years and returned to America to marry the pretty and accomplished Ann Borden of Bordentown, New Jersey, and practice law in that colony.

In the year of 1776 New Jersey sent him to Continental Congress and at the age of 39 he voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence.

After the Revolution he held the office of Loan Commissioner for a number of years; was appointed Judge of Admiralty for the State of Pennsylvania and held this office until 1790 when President Washington appointed him District Judge of Pennsylvania.

Judge Hopkinson was a small and slender man, standing only about five-feet-six. He had small but animated features and was quick in speech and movements. He was extremely kind to everyone including the animal kingdom. At one time he even had a pet mouse which sat near his chair at mealtime and waited for crumbs. His pigeons flocked to his shoulders whenever they saw him approaching.

Francis Hopkinson, as well as Betsy Ross, was known to have helped design our Stars and Stripes.

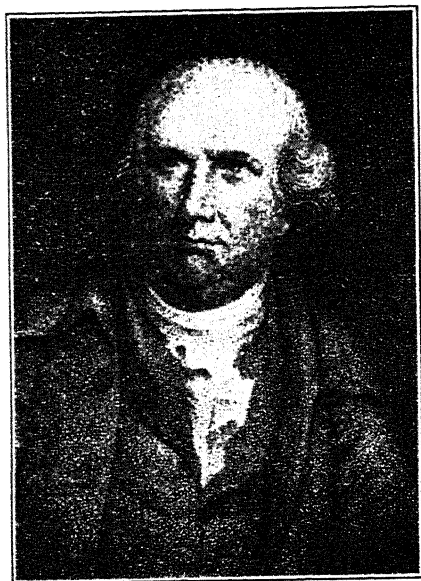
He was not a great composer but one or two of his songs are still sung. His most popular ballads were "The Battle of the Kegs" and "The Toast." The former was a take-off on Sir William Howe, dealing with that Britisher's love affair with the American, Mrs. Loring. It wasn't usually sung in the presence of ladies. The latter, a very fine tribute to the great American General, was written in 1778 and the first stanza ran as follows:

"Tis Washington's health—fill a bumper around
For he is our glory and pride;
Our arms shall in battle with conquest be crown'd
Whilst virtue and he's on our side."

His son, Joseph Hopkinson, evidently inherited much of his father's legal and musical talent. He became a successful lawyer and judge and was the writer of our "Hail Columbia."

Francis Hopkinson died in the prime of life before he was 54. The cause being "gout in his head," terminated by apoplexy. He was survived by his widow, two sons and three daughters.

Nearly all the Signers possessed magnetic personalities but had Elinor Glyn lived in Judge Hopkinson's day she would probably have described the Judge as the "It" Signer.



Rob Morris

Born in England in January, 1733
Died May 8, 1806

The print of Mr. Morris is
reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre from
an original in the Possession of Mrs. Morris."

ROBERT MORRIS

Robert Morris, "The financier of the American Revolution", was 13 years old when he came over from England with his grandmother to join his father in Philadelphia. He did not receive the benefits of a classical education; only the necessary rudiments, but these proved ample for the career he was to follow.

When he was 15 his father placed him in the employ of Charles Willing, a leading merchant of Philadelphia and very soon after the father received a mortal wound. Thus the boy was left an orphan but with quite a considerable estate.

He continued in the service of Mr. Willing, displaying precocious business judgment, until the latter died when Robert was 21 and then he formed a merchantile business partnership with Mr. Thomas Willing which lasted many years. The firm progressed rapidly and soon became the leading importing-house in Philadelphia. Consequently, Robert Morris increased in wealth and prominence and in 1769 he married Miss Mary White from one of the old Pennsylvania families.

He sided with the Colonies in their opposition to the Stamp and Tea Acts despite the threat to his flourishing business.

He entered Congress for Pennsylvania in 1775 and in the Spring of 1776 he was chosen commissioner to negotiate the procuring of money for the Government. This made him absent from the body on July 4, 1776, but he was re-elected to a seat on July 18th, and affixed his signature to the great document on August 2, 1776.

Later he signed the Articles of Confederation and was one of the six common Signers to sign the Constitution. He established the Bank of North America and refusing the cabinet job of Secretary of the Treasury in Washington's cabinet he advised the appointment of Colonel Alexander Hamilton.

He personally advanced ten thousand dollars after the army's retreat through New Jersey to meet the payroll enabling Washington to cross the Delaware and capture Trenton. At Yorktown he issued his personal notes for \$1,400,000 with which to conduct the seige and afterwards he paid them all in full.

In seeking to recoup his own personal fortunes after the Revolution, he became deeply involved. A friend turned dishonest. A London bank failed and in 1798 he was confined to a debtor's prison for three long years until he was released by the National Bankruptcy Act of 1800. During the balance of his life he tried hard to make a comeback, but it was too late. He was too old and he died practically a poor man at the age of 73.



Sam^l Huntington

**Born in Wyndam, Conn., July 3, 1732
Died January 5, 1796**

The print of Mr. Huntington is reproduced from an
Engraving by J. B. Longacre.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON

Samuel Huntington, Signer from Connecticut, was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Huntington, honest farmers of Wyndam, Connecticut, and descendants of the best stock in New England.

Because he was naturally ambitious when a child his parents chose for him the profession of farming. His was a typical case of from ploughboy to President because he actually did become President of the United States under the only Government we had at the time: the Continental Congress. And, as mentioned before, it was the highest honor paid to an American in those days, just as it is now. He didn't, however, sit in the White House and he didn't know just when the seat of government would have to be moved hurriedly and he along with it, but he did serve as President from September 28, 1779 until July 10, 1781 and he served well.

It was considered when he was a boy, as for many generations later, that a farmer boy didn't need much education. So his father never worried about Samuel's education; just let him drift. But Sam didn't drift. He studied law like Sherman, from borrowed books, and eventually got so good that he moved to Norwich, Connecticut in 1760 and from then on he went places.

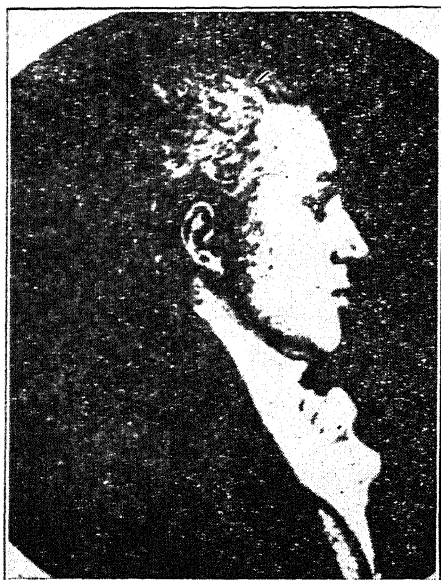
At 30 he married Miss Martha Devotion (How could he help but be religious?) and because they had no children they adopted two of his brother's, whose wife was a sister to his wife. The nephew, also named Samuel, later became Governor of Ohio and the niece married Dr. Griffin, onetime President of Williams College in Massachusetts.

In 1775 he was elected delegate to Congress and of course he was there to sign the immortal document.

Some have thought that Samuel Huntington was a colorless character because he had such plain and simple manners and because he was so strictly economical in his expenditures, but he was the man of the hour. He was a member of the Christian Church and he practiced the doctrines of the true Christian in actual life. In times of stress no man ever possessed greater mildness or equanimity and these qualities he practised even in his own home. The niece and adopted daughter once remarked that she never once heard her father raise his voice in anger. He did not go in for pomp and display. He never ostentatiously led the Big Parade. But he DID lead the Big Parade with quietness and finesse. He had the deepest admiration and respect of his colleagues.

He stood five feet ten. Had a dark complexion and a bright and penetrating eye. His manners were formal and he had the dignity of Washington and like Washington in his family circle he was pleasing and entertaining. He had a long nose but he was handsome.

He was elected Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut in 1795 and promoted to Governor in 1796. In this capacity he served until his death ten years later.



John Morton

Born in Delaware in 1724
Died in April, 1777

Mr. Morton's picture is
reproduced from one in
the Library of Congress.

JOHN MORTON

John Morton, representative from Pennsylvania, can frankly be termed "The Signer behind the eight-ball".

He was descended from early Swedish emigrants who settled on the Delaware between the Christiana and the Wickecoe Rivers. He was the only child of his father, John Morton, who died before his son was born. His mother, Mary Richards Morton, remarried John Sketchley, an Englishman, and this good man took a genuine fatherly interest in his step-son. Three months was the longest period the boy spent in school. The rest of his education was directed by his step-father in their home and John Sketchley found an apt pupil in young John Morton. He imparted all his knowledge of surveying to the boy and he grew up tilling his father's farm and surveying neighboring lands.

From the age of 30 when he was appointed justice of the peace he came into public view and was soon elected to the general assembly of Pennsylvania, shortly becoming speaker of that body.

He married Miss Ann Justis of Delaware. They had many children and three sons and five daughters survived their father.

On July 22, 1774, he was appointed by the general assembly of Pennsylvania to serve in the First Continental Congress and he continued in that great body until his untimely death.

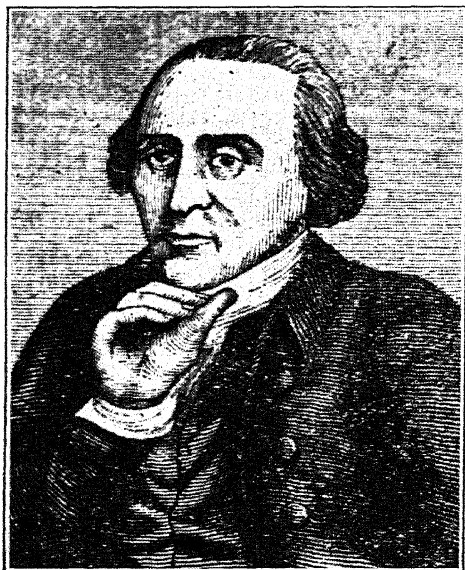
There was opposition to The Declaration of Independence. It was a very bold piece of business and every Signer knew that the loss of the Revolution meant the possible loss of his life and misery and servitude for his surviving loved ones.

On that memorable day when the Declaration was about to be voted on, keen interest was manifested in the two previously dissenting States of Delaware and Pennsylvania. Caesar Rodney's timely arrival brought Delaware in line and the delegates present from Pennsylvania were Doctor Franklin, James Wilson, Charles Humphries, Thomas Willing (partner of Robert Morris) and John Morton. Franklin and Wilson were for but Humphries and Willing were against its adoption. Therefore the deciding vote rested with John Morton and John Morton had the courage to cast his vote for independence. From then on he was truly behind the eight-ball.

Some friends praised him for his courage while an equal number condemned him bitterly for what he had done, and being a friendly man, he was disturbed and he worried to such an extent that he soon had a physical breakdown.

On his death-bed in April 1777, during a raging fever, he was fully aware that some of his former warmest friends were neglecting him because of his decision, but even then his patriotism shown forth and to his wife and children who had gathered around him he said of these absent friends, "Tell them that they will live to see the hour, when they shall acknowledge it to have been the most glorious service that I ever rendered to my country."

And thus died John Morton, the Martyr to the Declaration of Independence—the first one of the signers to go.



Francis Lightfoot Lee

Born in Virginia Oct. 14, 1734
Died in April, 1791

The picture of Mr. Lee is a reproduction of the print taken from the volume *Signers of The Declaration of Independence* by Benson J. Lossing and published by J. C. Derby, 8 Park Place, New York in 1854.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE

Francis Lightfoot Lee, two years and nine months younger than his brother, Richard Henry Lee, was too young, at the death of his father, to be sent abroad for an education in England, but he received the scholastic advantages offered in Virginia.

During his youth he became generally known for his gay humor and pleasing wit, but his capable tutor the Reverend Doctor Craig, a Scotch clergyman, really laid the foundation of the high type of character that he was known to possess throughout his whole life.

When his brother, Richard, returned from England, Francis looked upon the former as perfection incarnate. The older brother became so impressed with this deep devotion that he was happy to exchange ideas with him and soon the political sentiments which moved one also moved the other. The silver-tongued oratory of Richard was entrancing to Francis, but he never acquired that degree of fluency.

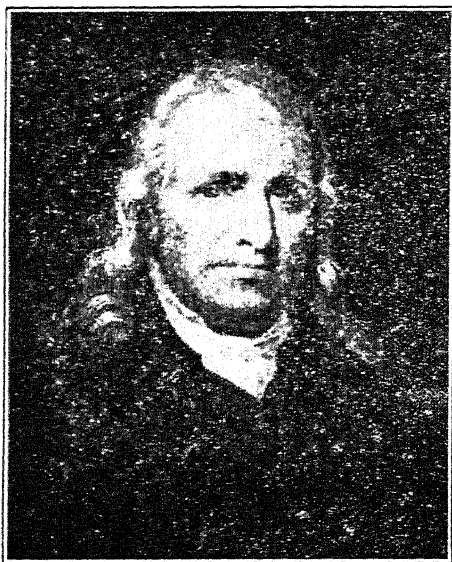
In 1765, as a candidate from London County, he was elected to the Virginia house of burgesses, serving seven years.

In 1772, he married Rebecca, the daughter of Colonel John Taylor, but no children blessed the union. At this time he established a permanent residence in Richmond County and from here was again elected to the house of burgesses.

He was elected to Continental Congress in 1775 and he signed the Declaration of Independence when he was 42 years old. Congress found him a very efficient and useful member, especially on committees. He assisted in framing the Articles of Confederation.

He retired from public life in 1780 and leisurely followed the profession of agriculture on his broad acres. Every Virginia gentleman of those days owned land, particularly the Lees of the Old Dominion. Like Washington he set apart certain acreage on his farm for experimentation and for the next eleven years he led the pleasing and interesting life of a country gentleman. He kept well abreast of the times as he was a great reader. He was counsellor to the poor, physician and friend to the sick. In general he was a delightful companion to both old and young.

During the extreme cold winter of 1791, he and his wife both contracted severe colds. Pleurisy developed and eventually he died in the month of April, 1791. Mrs. Lee followed him only a few days later.



Samuel Chase

Born in Maryland April 17, 1741
Died June 19, 1811

The print of Mr. Chase is
"Engraved from a Drawing by J. B. Longacre
after a Painting by Jarvis".

SAMUEL CHASE

Samuel Chase Signer, from Maryland, was the son of an Episcopal clergyman and during his boyhood his father was his chief instructor.

At the age of 18, he commenced the study of law in the offices of Hammond and Hall in Annapolis and was admitted to the bar at 22. Before he was 21 he was chosen a member of the Provincial Assembly. He joined the famous Sons of Liberty and made himself very obnoxious to the royal authorities although very popular with the masses.

He married the amiable and intelligent Miss Ann Baldwin in Annapolis and they became the parents of two sons and two daughters who survived them. He was one of the five delegates chosen for the First Continental Congress in 1774 and was one of the first congressmen to openly express his wishes for absolute independence. In the spring of 1776 he was appointed with Franklin and Charles Carroll of Carrollton on the Canadian mission, which proved somewhat of a failure, but he was back in time to vote for and sign The Declaration of Independence. Later, during the same summer he showed his mettle by rising in Congress and denouncing the Reverend Doctor Zubly as a traitor. The Doctor was a delegate from Georgia and in some way Mr. Chase had discovered that the man was in secret correspondence with Georgia's English Governor. Upon the accusation Zubly at once bolted from the Congressional Chamber. He was wildly pursued, but got away to safety.

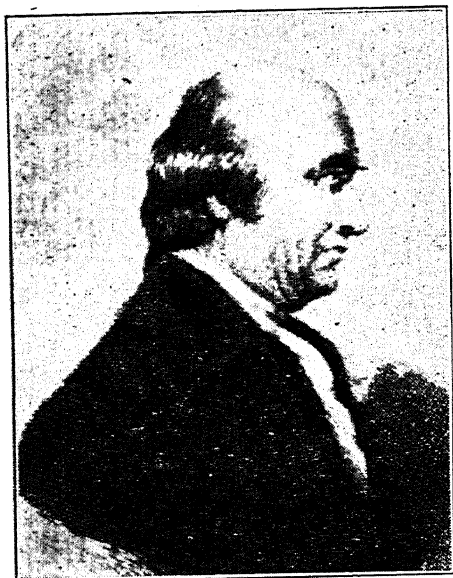
In 1788 at the solicitation of Colonel Howard, Mr. Chase moved to Baltimore where he was appointed Chief Justice of the judicial district of Baltimore.

In 1796, President Washington appointed him a judge in the Supreme Court and he served until his death. He was ever an ardent supporter of his chief and stood staunchly by him when certain politicians dared, in 1783, to charge Washington with appropriating public money for his own use during the American Revolution. But Washington had kept accurate account of government monies spent and on July 1, 1783 he released to the public his accurate and unassailable records for their review.

The same political element haunted Supreme Court Justice Chase, even to the procurement of his impeachment for malconduct on the bench in 1804. But Justice Chase was tried and honorably acquitted to the shame of his enemies and not an atom of guilt rested on his shoulders when he died.

Judge Chase was a tall, well-proportioned man with a handsome countenance. He was always alert and benevolent. One example of his kindness was the finding of a poor drug clerk in Baltimore and observing that the boy had great debating ability he invited him to use his law library. The young man was eventually admitted to the bar and was afterwards Attorney General of the United States. His name was William Pinckney.

Abiding by the faith he learned from his father, Mr. Chase remained an ardent Episcopalian and at his death was a member of St. Paul's in Baltimore.



Lewis Morris

Born at Morrisania, New York, 1726
Died January, 1798

The print of Mr. Morris is
reproduced from one in possession
of the author.

LEWIS MORRIS

Lewis Morris, Signer from the State of New York, was the oldest son of a greatly distinguished New York family. His brother, Staats, was an officer in the British service; his brother, Richard, a chief justice of the State of New York and his brother, Gouverneur, was a member of Congress and a great orator.

At the age of 16 Lewis entered Yale College and graduated four years later. He returned home at once where he engaged in extensive farming on his paternal acres. Lewis Morris was not pinched by the tyranny of George III, but he sympathized with his fellow Americans and joined their righteous cause.

Early in life he married Miss Mary Walton, a beautiful girl of wealth, and she bore her husband six sons and four daughters. Three of these sons joined the Revolutionary Army and served with distinction.

Mr. Morris was elected in 1775 to the Second Continental Congress and during that summer he was sent on a mission to pacify the Indians on the Western frontier.

After voting for and signing The Declaration of Independence, the British ruined his palatial mansion; laid bare his thousand acre forest on the Hudson; carried off his cattle and drove his family into exile.

Relinquishing his seat in Congress in 1777, he returned to New York where he alternated in serving his State Legislature and the New York Militia. In the latter, he was promoted to the rank of Major General where he became a great organizer and ordinance officer.

Inasmuch as Mr. Morris knew, at the time he signed the Declaration, that the British were within cannon shot of his estate, he nevertheless affixed his name to the document and from the time he signed until the British evacuated New York he and his family put up with all kinds of sacrifices.

In 1783, however, he went back to his devastated acres, rebuilt his buildings and began life anew on the estate that he loved and here in this delightful atmosphere of his ancestors he entered old age with serenity and contentment. Only one incident later marred the happiness of Mr. and Mrs. Morris. This was the death of their oldest son, but their other nine children outlived their parents.

Sanderson describes his personality as follows: "Lewis Morris possessed a lofty stature, a singularly handsome face, and a most graceful demeanor, with a temperament so enthusiastic and ardent, and a disposition so benevolent and generous, as to render him in his native province the universal favorite of his coevals."



Oliver Wolcott

**Born in Connecticut Nov. 26, 1726
Died December 1, 1797**

The print of Mr. Wolcott is a reproduction of one "Engraved by J. Longacre from a Painting in Delaplaines Gallery".

OLIVER WOLCOTT

Oliver Wolcott, Signer from Connecticut, lived a life that typified the old saying, "It is better to wear out than rust out." He was the bobbing-est-about Congressman we had in those days for he would be in Congress for a term, then out and into the army, then back into Congress and so on and et cetera.

He came from a long line of Yankee Wolcotts. His father was Roger and his English emigrant ancestor, Henry, came to Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1630. Six years later Henry Wolcott, with a few neighbors, went over into Connecticut and founded the settlement of Windsor, where Oliver was born. Henry Wolcott was among the organizers of that colony which received its charter from King Charles II.

At the age of 17 Oliver entered Yale and graduated in 1747. The same year he was commissioned a Captain in the Colonial Army and marched to the northern frontier against the French and Indians. In the service, he advanced rapidly to Major-General.

For a time he studied medicine under his uncle, Dr. Alexander Wolcott, but upon completion of this work he was appointed the first sheriff of Litchfield County.

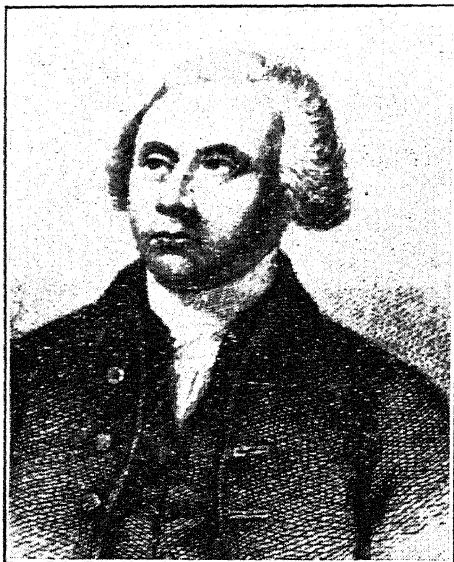
In 1755, he married Miss Laura Collins of Guilford, who preceded him in death by two years. Historians pay a tribute to Laura Wolcott. During their married life Oliver was away from home much of the time, but she carried on splendidly by raising and educating their children and managing a farm with fortitude, frugality and intelligence. Countless wives were unsung heroines during our American Revolution. Mrs. Wolcott was only one of the few heroines that came to the attention of the early writers.

Soon after signing The Declaration of Independence, Mr. Wolcott was appointed to command a detachment of Connecticut Militia. He served in the fatal Battle of Long Island and in November of that year was back in Congress in Baltimore. Back in the army again he fought in the Battle of Saratoga and then returned to Congress in session in York, Pennsylvania. He missed the sessions in Lancaster because our galloping Congress only served three days there. Some of the time they were only about two jumps ahead of the British Army! But he served from this period until July of 1778. It should be mentioned now that he simultaneously held office in the council of his native state, Chief Justice of Litchfield County and Judge of Probate in his home district. And they traveled by horseback in those days!

In 1779, he again took a division of soldiers and chased Governor Tryon from southwest Connecticut where he and his murderous band had committed countless atrocities such as rifling homes, burning them and driving unclothed women into the woods and swamps.

In 1785 he was a commissioner to the Six Nations.

In 1786 he was elected Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut and served until 1796 when he was elected Governor of his State and he held this office until his death. General Wolcott was truly a great man.



Tho Nelson jr.

Born at York, Virginia, on Dec. 26, 1738
Died January 4, 1789

The print of General Nelson is reproduced from a print "Etched by H. B. Hall from a Drawing in the Collection of Dr. T. A. Emmet, 1870."

THOMAS NELSON, JR.

By inherent right and by adhering to industry, frugality and prudence, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Signer from Virginia, and the oldest son of an English emigrant, accumulated quite a sizable fortune while still in the prime of his life.

At the age of 14, his parents sent him to England to be educated. There he attended Trinity College and after an absence of 9 years he returned to Virginia in 1761.

In 1762, he married Miss Lucy Gryme, from the neighboring county of Middlesex. They moved into the commodious new brick house, built by his father as their wedding gift, and from then on, Thomas followed the profession of agriculture and did very well.

In 1774, he was elected to the first general convention of Virginia which was held in Williamsburg. Here he proposed the bold measure of organizing a state militia for the defense of his fellow Virginians. The proposal was supported by Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee and these two, with Thomas, were elected Colonels of the first three regiments formed.

He was elected to the First Continental Congress and unanimously re-elected in 1776 when he voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence. In 1777, he was seized with an alarming illness and resigned his seat from Congress. (He served again for a short time in 1779). He was a very popular man, and as soon as he had recovered he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of all military forces in Virginia with the title of Brigadier-General.

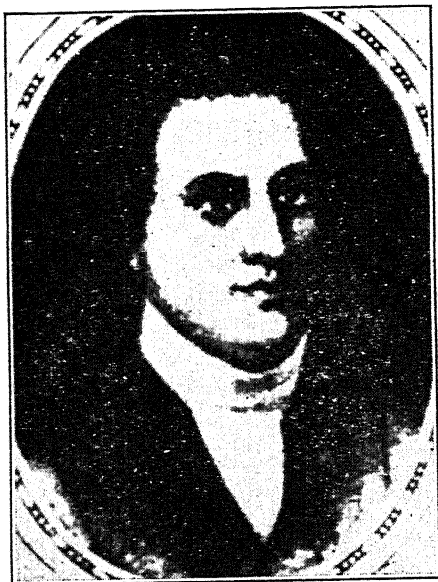
In 1781, he was elected Governor of Virginia, succeeding Thomas Jefferson, but even this position did not keep him from the field of action and late in the summer of that year he joined forces with Lafayette when Cornwallis landed in Yorktown.

In visiting Yorktown, one should not fail to see that fine brick home that William Nelson presented to his son and his bride. It is still standing. Up there, lodged in the bricks, between two three-story windows is a cannonball. It was shot there a hundred and fifty-nine years ago by an expert gunner. The gunner received his orders from General Thomas Nelson, Jr., the owner of the house. British officers had their headquarters in his home and Thomas wanted them out.

By the unstinted use of his personal fortune, General Nelson succeeded in holding the several brigades together during that autumn of 1781 while the siege of Yorktown was going on and finally he pledged the sustenance of the French fleet anchored in the James River.

In his official account of the Yorktown siege, General Washington made honorable mention of the services of General Nelson and his militia.

Governor Nelson retained barely enough of his once ample means to end his own days in a semblance of comfort, but his widow lived beyond eighty years, and blind, infirm and poor she died before learning that the greatest Republic in the world could really be grateful.



Button Gwinnett

Born in England in 1732
Died May 27, 1777

The print of Mr. Gwinnett is reproduced
"From a portrait owned by Hampton L. Carson,
Philadelphia".

BUTTON GWINNETT

Button Gwinnett, Signer from Georgia, was born, educated and married in England. His people were not well-to-do, but they saw to it that he was well educated.

His name is probably best known by his coveted signature. There seems to be only two of them in existence besides the one on the Declaration of Independence. Prior to 1935 one of them had sold for \$51,000.00, which amounts to \$3,642.85 per letter. This is the highest price ever paid for the signature of an American.

He served an apprenticeship to a merchant in Bristol, England, and then went into business for himself. Hearing alluring tales of wealth and distinction in the new hemisphere he decided to cross the Ocean. So he and his family arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1770, where he began a mercantile business. After two years at this he sold his stock and removed to St. Catherine's Island, belonging to and off the coast of Georgia, where he purchased great tracts of land, numerous slaves and settled down to the life of a planter.

He became intimately acquainted with Dr. Lyman Hall, a great patriot, and through his efforts Gwinnett was soon deeply sympathetic himself with the Colonies.

In 1775 he was elected a delegate to Continental Congress and re-elected in 1776, so that he voted for and signed the great instrument.

He remained in Congress until 1777 when he was elected a member of the Georgia State Convention to form a Constitution and Mr. Gwinnett is given credit for the grand outlines of that instrument.

With such a brilliant mind he was very popular and civil honors were rapidly heaped upon him in his State of Georgia. He was soon elected president of the council of the State Convention and after that he decided to seek military honors. He put his name up for Brigadier General. Colonel Lackland McIntosh, a highly esteemed gentleman, ran against him. The Colonel was elected and a deep enmity then arose between the two which developed into such bitterness that Gwinnett finally challenged M'Intosh to a duel.

They fought with pistols at the short distance of twelve feet. After the first shot each man fell; Gwinnett with a nasty wound in the knee and McIntosh an ugly one in the thigh.

In two weeks Gwinnett was dead, but McIntosh recovered. After his death, Mrs. Gwinnett wrote a letter to McIntosh absolving him from all responsibility and placing the blame for her husband's death on an incapable surgeon.

As to his family Lossing says, "He left a widow and several children, who did not long survive him."



Thomas Lynch Junr

**Born in South Carolina August 5, 1749
Died, 1779**

The print of Mr. Lynch is reproduced from one "Engraved by J. B. Longacre from an Enamel Painting in the Possession of Miss E. Lynch".

THOMAS LYNCH, JR.

Thomas Lynch, Jr., Signer from South Carolina, was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Alston Lynch. He was descended from an old Austrian family; the ancestors of his branch migrating to Kent County, England, and thence to Connaught, Ireland, from where came his great grandfather to South Carolina, when it was first settled. Here the ancestor purchased large tracts of land which eventually came to the father of Thomas, Jr.

When he was a small child, Thomas' mother died and when he arrived at school age his father placed him in the Indigo Society School at Georgetown, S. C. It was soon discovered here that he was a very precocious child and at the age of 13 he was sent to Eton in England. From Eton he attended Cambridge, received his degree and then in one of the inns of the Temple he graduated a finished lawyer.

He returned to South Carolina in 1772 and forthwith married his childhood sweetheart, the beautiful Elizabeth Shubrick, and his father presented him with a most valuable plantation on the shore of the North Santee River.

In 1775, while his father was in Congress, young Lynch was commissioned a Captain in the first South Carolina regiment of provincials. He and Captain (later General) C. C. Pinckney left for North Carolina to recruit enlistments. During their march back to Charleston, Thomas was seized with the violent bilious fever, prevalent at that time in the armies of the south. At about the same time his father was stricken with paralysis while in Congress. The father resigned and the son was at once elected to fill the vacancy. He joyfully accepted so he could be with his father and he was there in time to vote for and sign the great document.

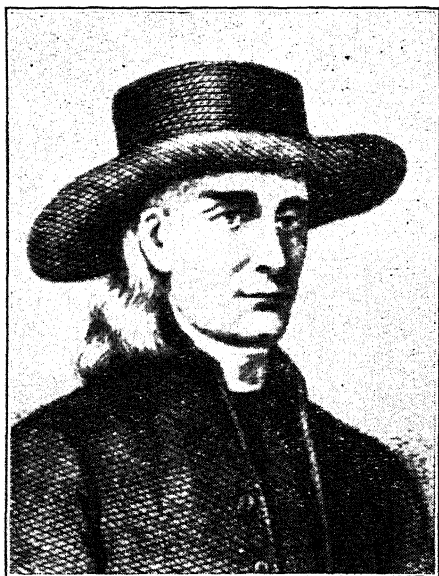
But he did not long remain in Congress. The after effects of the bilious fever remained in his system and his father's health grew worse. He decided to resign and take his father home. They traveled slowly, but when they reached Annapolis the father suffered another stroke and died in his son's arms.

With a sad heart and a sick body the young man returned home. His own disability continued. He suffered greatly with rheumatic fever and other complications which for weeks at a time prevented him using his legs.

A change of climate was finally advised and late in the autumn of 1779 he and his beautiful wife embarked on a ship commanded by Captain Morgan, bound for the West Indies.

No one ever knew the fate the ship encountered. A French passenger on the same ship, for an unknown reason, was induced to change passage to an accompanying vessel after a few days out. He said that the night after he had disembarked from the Lynch ship a violent storm had arisen and it was his supposition that every passenger went down with the ship.

Thus passed our second youngest Signer in the 30th year of his life.



Step. Hopkins

Born in Rhode Island March 7, 1707
Died July 13, 1785

The print of Mr. Hopkins is reproduced
from a print of an etching "by H. B. Hall
from Drawing in Collection of Dr. T. A. Emmet. 1870".

STEPHEN HOPKINS

Good old Stephen Hopkins, Signer from Rhode Island, was the oldest-next to Franklin of the Famous Fifty-Six.

Schooling was sort of a hit-and-miss proposition with him when he was a boy. In the true sense of the word, he became self-taught, but he must have had a good instructor in penmanship for in his early days he wrote an easy and very legible hand.

He was raised a Baptist and evidently was a good boy because when he was 19 his father deeded him seventeen acres of land and his grandfather deeded an additional ninety acre tract to "my loving grandson."

The son of a farmer, he started in early at the same trade and stuck to it until he was 35 at which time he sold his land, moved into Providence and built the fine mansion which was his residence as long as he lived.

Before this, however, he had held offices such as town clerk of Scituate, president of the town council and he kept right on going politically until 1756 when he was elected Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island, holding this office until 1767.

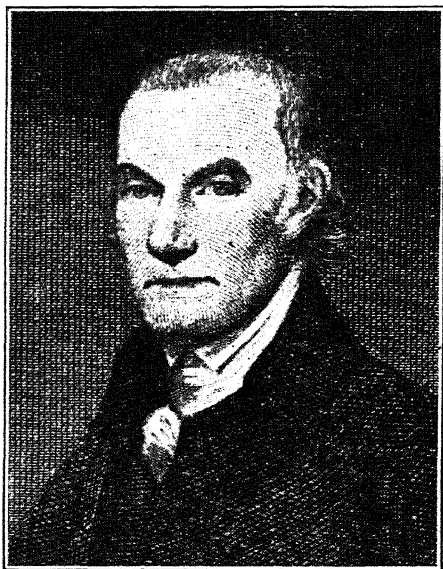
He first married Miss Sarah Scott in 1726. She and Stephen had many children, but they were subjected to heavy heart-breaking family bereavements. Of five sons, one died at age 8; another of smallpox in Spain at the age of 24; another died at sea and a fourth was murdered when 19 by savages on the Cape Breton coast. Many descendants are left, however, of his daughter, Lydia. After Sarah died in 1753 he married, in 1755, Mrs. Anna Smith, widow of Benjamin Smith. Both these ladies were members of the Society of Friends, which faith Stephen came to believe in, although he doesn't appear to have been accepted a full-fledged member. Perhaps this was because he was too active in a military way. During the French War he raised a corps of volunteers and was placed in command.

He was elected delegate to the First Continental Congress and was still in—hat and all—on July 4, 1776. Back there in the Trumbull painting he is easily discernible on account of the hat, and more power to him for his convictions. He lived in a land where he could worship as he pleased. If he didn't believe all the precepts of his church, he could believe part of them and that was his business.

His shaky signature on the great document was not due to fear, as has been told. No, not "Steve" Hopkins. He was then nearly seventy and the "shaking palsy" had ruined his fine handwriting.

He was elected to Congress in 1778 for the last time and was a member of the committee that drafted the Articles of Confederation.

In person, Mr. Hopkins stood about five-feet-nine. He had comely and prepossessing features. He was mild-mannered and calm and he had a keen mathematical mind whose wisdom even the college professors and astronomers took notice of.



W. Floyd

Born on Long Island, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1734
Died August 4, 1821

The print of Mr. Floyd is reproduced
from another "Engraved by A. B. Durand from
a Painting in Delaplaine's Gallery".

WILLIAM FLOYD

William Floyd, Signer from New York, was the grandson of a Welsh immigrant who came to Long Island, settled at Setauket in 1680, became very wealthy and passed the wealth along to William's father.

William received an ordinarily good education before his own father died and left the son in charge of large estates. His lands then abounded in game and William developed a fondness for hunting and became a right genial and hospitable host to many friends.

He was elected to the First Continental Congress in 1774. He had previously been commissioned Colonel in charge of the militia of Suffolk County and while at home after the congressional session of 1775 he marched at the head of his unit to repulse and scare away a British Naval force intent upon landing on Long Island and spreading destruction in their wake.

He was back in Congress in 1776 to vote and sign The Declaration of Independence.

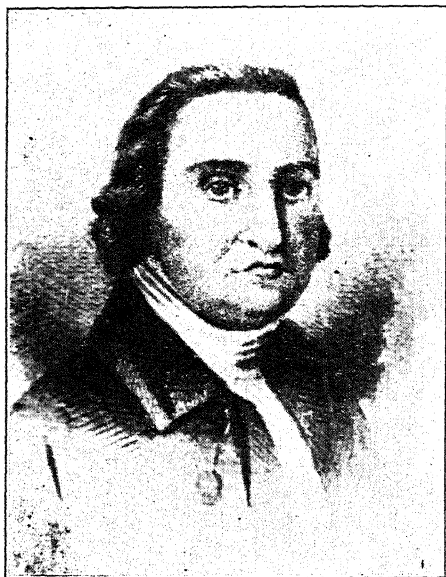
In revenge for humiliating their sailors and for signing the Declaration, the British army made his property their target. His family fled to Connecticut and his mansion was used for headquarters of British officers before and after the Battle of Long Island.

Similar to Oliver Wolcott, he too alternated his army service with congressional and state legislative service and in 1777 we find him an army general.

He was a keen student of finance and in 1779 while in the New York legislature he was instrumental in placing the state, then on the verge of bankruptcy and famine, in a prosperous financial condition.

After an exile of seven years he and his family returned to their Long Island estate on April 26, 1783 to build up what the British had torn down.

Even after the Revolution he continued to serve now and then in Congress and was elected to the first term under our new Constitution. He declined re-election for another term because he said he needed a rest. What he really wanted to do was to play with that wild land he had purchased in the Mohawk Valley in 1784. So to this wild land he went in 1803 although he was then 69 years old, but he loved the beauty of the scenery and he found the soil was mighty productive and having previously led a busy life, he took off his coat again and went to work. In a few years the wilderness, under his direction, was transformed into fine looking farms on every side. And here William Floyd spent his last years in peace and plenty.



Fran^s Lewis

Born in Wales March, 1713
Died December 30, 1803

The print of Mr. Lewis
is from one in possession
of the writer.

FRANCIS LEWIS

Francis Lewis, Signer from New York, was the only child of his parents who died before he was six years old. His maiden aunt, Miss Llawelling, then took him and saw to it that he was really educated in the fundamentals. She personally taught him Cymraeg, the native language of Wales. She sent him to Scotch Highland relatives who instructed him in the Gaelic tongue and finally his mother's brother took him and placed him at Westminster school where he completed his education.

He then entered the counting-room of a London merchant, served a regular clerkship and acquired a valuable knowledge of commerce which became his life work.

When he was 21 he came into some money and investing it in merchandise he sailed for New York City where he formed a partnership with Edward Annesley, left him in New York with part of the merchandise and went himself to Philadelphia with the rest of it, did pretty well there and two years later returned to New York and married Elizabeth Annesley, the sister of his partner.

Mr and Mrs. Lewis had seven children. The four oldest died in infancy, but the three youngest lived and raised families.

In the pursuit of his business Mr. Lewis took many ocean voyages. He was twice in Russia and twice shipwrecked on the Irish coast.

During the French War he was aid to Col. Mercier at Oswego. In August of 1757 he was there captured prisoner with fourteen hundred others by Montcalm who turned him over to the chief Indian warrior for disposal. Tradition has it that the chief spared his life because Francis yelled wildly in the old Cymraeg tongue, learned from his maiden aunt, and the red man, thinking it sounded quite Indian, turned him back to Montcalm, who shipped him to France and here he lay in a military prison until exchanged.

Mr. Lewis was elected to the New York Colonial Congress in 1765 and to the Continental Congress in 1775, having now unfortunately set up a residence on his county-seat on Long Island.

As with William Floyd the British aimed their spite at another Signer and in the autumn of 1776 they not only ravaged Mr. Lewis' estate but inhumanly vent their wrath upon his unprotected wife. They made her prisoner in a dirty room without even a bed to lie on and for months this lovely lady suffered without change of clothing. The result of this base imprisonment ruined her health so that within two years she died.

The end of the American Revolution saw the end of the Lewis fortune. He was reduced very close to a state of poverty, but in spite of all this the great and sacrificing patriot lived past the age of ninety.



Mr Williams

Born in Connecticut April 18, 1731
Died August 2, 1811

The picture of Mr. Williams is a reproduction of his likeness in the volume *Signers of The Declaration of Independence* by Benson J. Lossing and published by J. C. Derby, 8 Park Place, New York in 1854.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS

William Williams, Signer from Connecticut, entered Harvard College at the age of 16 and graduated in 1751. He then returned home and began the study of theology under his father, the Reverend Solomon Williams, a Congregational minister, but before he was ordained the French and Indian War broke out and William decided to get into service.

On the staff of his relative, Colonel Ephraim Williams, he marched to meet the enemy. In the action at Lake George, Colonel Williams was killed and William returned home with a hearty dislike for all British officers in general because of their superior attitude toward the colonial soldiers and because of their attitude on life.

This small town boy, from a religious home, saw strange happenings in that campaign. Camp followers. Indian girls. A laxness in morals among the British troops. But William Williams did not falter from the moral life he had set out to lead. The morals of our early American army officers set a shining example to the military of the rest of the world. With the exception of Benedict Arnold, Charles Lee (not of Virginia) and Aaron Burr, our Colonial and Revolutionary officers were morally upright gentlemen in the strict sense of the word.

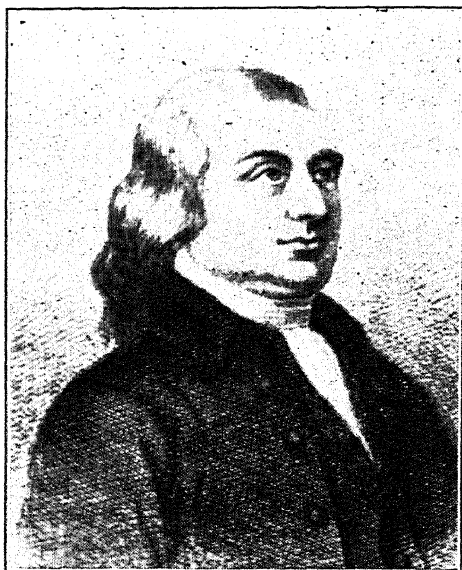
But some of those British officers in the French War! William Williams knew on his way home that Americans would never be content until they had thrown off that dominating military yoke of British oppression. So thinking he might do more good as a layman he decided to discontinue his ministerial studies and he opened up a merchantile business in Lebanon.

He was elected to Congress just six months after one Captain Parker stood on the green at Lexington, Massachusetts, and said to a gathering of his neighbors, "Stand your ground! Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war let it begin here!" And in 1776 William Williams, with recollections of the British officers of 20 years previous, thanked his God that he was in Congress to vote for and sign The Declaration of Independence.

From the time of the French War he had received rapid military promotions and in 1781 as a Colonel in the Connecticut Militia he hurriedly led a contingent to New London to meet the traitor Arnold. But when he arrived he found the city in flames and Arnold and his maurauders departed. He nevertheless did excellent work in equipping the militia of his state. In one instance he put up \$2,000 of his own money and very little of it was ever returned.

In 1772 he married Mary Trumbull, the daughter of Jonathan Trumbull who was then Governor of Connecticut. They raised a fine family and Colonel Williams was ever solicitous of their social, religious and educational welfare.

In 1810 his oldest son died and this so shocked the old veteran in his infirmities that he was never able to pull himself together. From then on his health declined and he died less than a year later.



Abira Clark

Born in New Jersey Feb. 15, 1726
Died in 1794

The picture of Mr. Clark is reproduced from a print "Etched by H. B. Hall from a Drawing in the Collection of Dr. T. A. Emmet, 1870".

ABRAHAM CLARK

Abraham Clark, Signer from New Jersey, was the only child of his parents. He was brought up on a farm, but was a frail child and turned his attentions to mathematics and the study of law. He became a good surveyor, but was not admitted to the bar although he did much legal work and became known as the "Poor Man's Counsellor"

In June of 1776 he took his seat in Congress so that he was present to vote for and sign The Declaration of Independence when he was fifty years old.

He did not suffer in the loss of estate as did John Hart and Richard Stockton, from the British, but it did diminish in value by neglect during his congressional service.

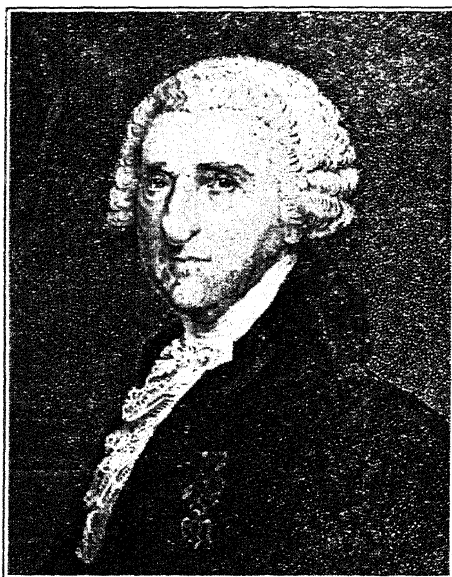
In 1748 he married Sarah Hetfield who survived him by ten years. They had two sons who were officers in the Revolutionary army and during their service both of them were captured and confined to the prison-ship Jersey. It is said they both "suffered more than the ordinary hardships of prisoners". One of them, Captain Thomas Clark, was placed in a dungeon without any sign of food and all he received was what his fellow officers and friends could pass through a keyhole to him. This went on until the news reached the American lines and then for a short time a captured British Captain received the same treatment until Captain Clark's tortures were stopped. Both sons were eventually freed in an exchange of prisoners.

Mr. Clark served a number of terms in Congress and was elected to the first Congress under the new Constitution. He was appointed one of the Commissioners to settle the New Jersey accounts with the General Government and performed this arduous duty ably and well.

In 1794, when France and England had trouble, he took sides with France. He could not forget the oppression and cruelty he had witnessed at the hands of England during the Revolution. The treatment accorded his two sons he could not forget. Just before his last congressional term ended, he proposed a resolution, suspending all trade with Great Britain until every section of the treaty of peace was lived up to. The resolution was not sanctioned by Congress.

In June of 1794, when Congress adjourned, Abraham Clark retired from political life and in the early fall of that year, on a particularly warm sunshiny day he suffered a severe sunstroke which caused his death two days later.

Abraham Clark was a common man of the common people, but an uncommonly fine patriot.



Thos McKean

Born in Pennsylvania March 19, 1734
Died June 24, 1817

The print of Mr. McKean is reproduced from the one in the volume Biography of The Signers to The Declaration of Independence, By Sanderson, revised and edited by Robert T. Conrad and printed in Philadelphia in 1852 by Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co.

THOMAS McKEAN

Thomas McKean, Signer from Delaware, was the son of William and Laetitia Finney McKean, both emigrants from Ireland, although married in America.

After his elementary education Thomas entered the then well-known institution of Francis Allison D. D. and upon completion of this course he entered the law office of David Finney, a relative, in Newcastle, Delaware. He was admitted to the bar when he was 21 and one year later he was allowed to practice law in his native county of Chester, Pennsylvania.

In 1774 he was elected a delegate to the First Continental Congress and served almost continuously in that body until 1783. He had previously seen military service and held a commission, so immediately after the vote was taken on July 4th. in 1776, Colonel McKean marched "at the head of his battalion" to Perth Amboy to join General Washington. Lossing calls the outfit a regiment of "Philadelphia Associators". Upon completion of this "flying camp", he returned to Philadelphia, resumed his seat in Congress and in October, 1776, signed the Declaration of Independence.

He was such a brilliant attorney that Delaware and Pennsylvania vied with each other for his services. In 1777, still serving in Congress, he was President of the State of Delaware and Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. He sat up all night on one occasion and wrote the new constitution for the State of Delaware, presented it at 10:00 A. M. the next day and it was unanimously adopted.

His family was so harassed by the British that during the year of 1777 he was obliged to move them five times, finally placing them in a log hut over a hundred miles away on the banks of the Susquehanna River. Proximity to hostile Indians forced him to move them again.

On July 10, 1781, he was elected President of Congress, succeeding Samuel Huntington, serving until November 5 of that year in the highest office of our young nation. He received his diploma of Doctor of Laws, during his presidential administration, from the College of New Jersey and the same thing one year later from Dartmouth in New Hampshire. On October 31, 1782 he received the Diploma of the Society of Cincinnati a remarkable organization still in existence and active. Membership is conferred upon the oldest son of the oldest son down through the generations of those distinguished officers of the Continental Line of the American Revolution. He was a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania and one of the founders of the Hibernian Society. He was elected Governor of Pennsylvania and served as such until 1808.

In July, 1762, he married Mary Borden, the oldest daughter of Joseph Borden of Bordentown, New Jersey. Mary McKean had two sons and four daughters and died in 1773 when the youngest was only two weeks old. On September 3, 1774, he married Miss Sarah Armitage of Newcastle, Delaware, and five children were born to the second union.



Rich^d Stockton

Born in New Jersey Oct. 1, 1730
Died February 28, 1781

The picture of Mr. Stockton is a reproduction of the one in the volume *Signers of The Declaration of Independence* By Benson J. Lossing and published by J. C. Derby, 8 Park Place, New York, in 1854.

RICHARD STOCKTON

Near Princeton, in Somerset County, at Stockton manor was the birth-place of Richard Stockton, Signer from New Jersey.

Richard received his elementary education locally, spent two years at a Maryland academy, then to the college of New Jersey in Newark and graduated at the first annual commencement at Nassau Hall in 1743 under the auspices of President Burr. He then took up the study of law under the distinguished David Ogden of Newark and was admitted to the bar in 1754. He took his profession seriously; was admitted to the grade of counsellor in 1758, and in 1763 received the degree of sergeant-at-law, the highest degree taken in England or in the American Colonies in the common law. At the same time, he had built up a very lucrative practice in his own community while living at his paternal manor.

For further improvement in his profession, he visited England, Scotland and Ireland in 1766-7. While in Scotland he met Doctor John Witherspoon at Paisley and undoubtedly was instrumental in getting this learned man to come to America.

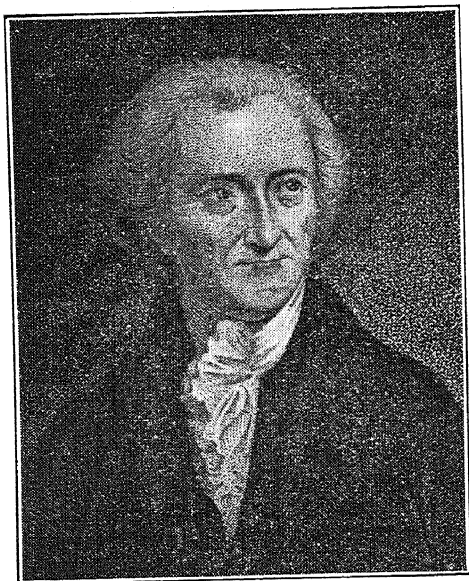
But all the while Richard Stockton was improving himself mentally, he did not forget himself physically. He stood six feet tall and was naturally energetic. He was an excellent horseman and a very capable swordsman. He had great strength in arms and legs and his powers of endurance were remarkable. His was not a particularly outstanding personality until he became interested in something and then his light grey eyes would light up and his whole personality displayed remarkable magnetism.

He returned from England in 1767 and continued his successful practice, rising higher in the favor of his friends and adding to his personal fortune.

The Provincial Congress of New Jersey sent him as a delegate to the National Congress in 1776 which placed him there to vote for and sign The Declaration of Independence.

Like many other signers he was wanted by the British and the British actually got him, while he was trying to move his family off the main highway into Monmouth county. They threw him into a common jail at Amboy where they nearly froze him to death and then moved him to the old Provost prison in New York City. Here they nearly starved him and, during this time, they were laying waste his vast estates. The library of his pride, one of the best possessed by an American of that day, was burned; his cows were driven away and his fine stock of horses were taken by the Red Coats.

When he was finally released from prison, he was reduced to such a state of despondency that he was never his former self again. Added to all this, a frightful cancer had developed on his neck that gnawed away until it finally struck his juglar vein and took him away at the age of fifty-one.



Geo. Read

Born in Maryland in 1734
Died in 1798

The print of Mr. Read is from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre from
a Painting by Pine".

GEORGE READ

If they had had basketball teams back in those days, the Read Brothers would have had a full team and one substitute. George was the oldest and probably would have been captain.

The grandfather of George Read, Signer from Delaware, was a wealthy resident of Dublin, Ireland. His father, John, brought a few shakels with him when he came to Maryland in 1726. Shortly after George was born the family moved into Newcastle county, Delaware.

As a child, George attended school at Chester, Pa., and at New London, Pa., under the Rev. Dr. Allison. At the age of 17, he began the study of law in Philadelphia and was admitted to the bar in 1753. He manifested much love for his five brothers and one of his first acts after becoming a lawyer was to relinquish all claim to his father's estate, stating as his reason, that he had received his full portion for expenses of his education.

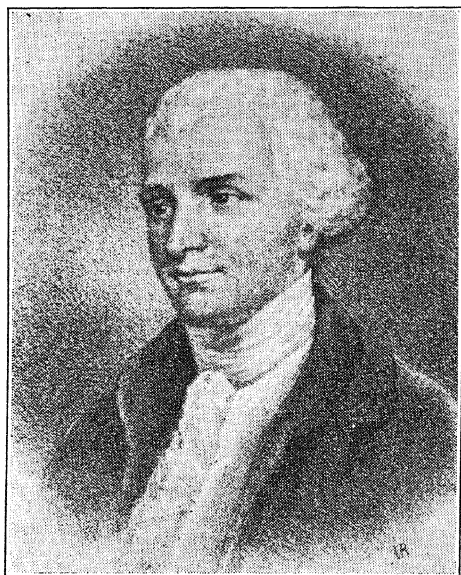
He began his practice in Newcastle county, Delaware, and before he was 30 years old he was Attorney General for three counties in his province.

Delaware sent him to Continental Congress in 1774 where he served until 1777. He was 42 years old when he signed The Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Read was about middle size. He always stood erect and dignified. He was an up-to-date dresser and very neat in his personal appearance.

In 1763, he married the daughter of the Rev. George Ross, pastor of Immanuel church in Newcastle, who had spent more attention on the instruction of his daughter than "was the common lot of females" at that time. Sanderson says of her, "Her person was beautiful, her manners elegant, and her piety exemplary". During the Revolution when Mr. Read was away so much she bore up under trouble magnificently. Time and again, at only brief warnings she was compelled to hurry from the British or Hessians, "with a large and infant family". During one of these escapes, her husband was home and the whole family, with his mother, crossed the Delaware in an old scow within sight of the British ships. Before they could effect a landing, the scow grounded. Mr. Read erased the identifying marks from his baggage and adjusted his clothes to the dress of a country gentleman while a boatload of English sailors were approaching. He convinced the sailors of the part he played and they were more than kind in assisting his family ashore.

Mr. Read was one of the Signers who also signed the Constitution. He was a member of the Delaware Constitutional Convention and Council; of the Continental Court of Appeals and the Annapolis Convention. He served as United States Senator from 1789 to 1793. And at the latter date he was elevated to Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware, in which station he occupied until his death at the age of 64.



John Penn

**Born in Virginia May 17, 1741
Died Sept., 1788**

The print of Mr. Penn
is taken from one in
the possession of the author.

JOHN PENN

This fine looking Signer from North Carolina was the only child of Moses and Catherine Taylor Penn. He attended a country school in Caroline county, Virginia, for only two or three terms. His father not deeming any further education necessary.

John was 18 when his father died and threw him in charge of his medium-sized, but not large, estate. With responsibility the boy developed a desire for more knowledge, so he availed himself of the library of his cousin, Edmund Pendleton. With much diligence and hard work, eventually he became a practitioner of law. He became a very good speaker and he had such a quality of extreme earnestness about himself that more than once he was known to have moved his court and jury to tears.

On July 28, 1763, he married Susannah Lyme. They became the parents of three children, but two of them "died unmarried".

In 1774, he moved with his family into North Carolina and continuing his study of law he soon became eminent in the new province.

He was seated in Congress as a delegate from North Carolina on Oct. 12, 1775 and was 35 years old when he signed The Declaration of Independence.

When the British Army marched through his state, he was invested with almost dictatorial powers and he worked incessantly to gather men to combat the invaders. He must have done well. At any rate, the British and Tories under Major Ferguson received a crushing defeat at King's Mountain and Cornwallis made an about-face into South Carolina.

Mr. Penn retired to his private law practice in 1781, but after three years he was appointed Sub-Treasurer for North Carolina under Robert Morris, the Treasurer of the Confederation. The office was somewhat of an odious one to him. He was a friendly man; the people were in no mood to part with much money for taxes and after a few weeks he resigned the office and went back to his practice.

Few details seem to be available on his last illness, but he died comparatively a young man, in his forty-seventh year.

The life of Signer John Penn is only another example of how a young man can forge ahead in spite of adverse circumstances if he has the ambition, desire and strength of purpose. That was back in the days of the horse without the buggy. Plenty of men succeeded in the horse and buggy days. Men and women of today are succeeding. The United States of America is still a Land of Opportunity!

The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

1. He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
2. He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operations till his assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
3. He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the Legislature—a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.
4. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the repository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.
5. He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing,

with manly firmness, his invasions on the right of the people.

6. He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the State remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the dangers of invasions from without, and convulsions within.

7. He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the laws for the naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

8. He has obstructed the administrations of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

9. He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

10. He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

11. He has kept among us in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our Legislatures.

12. He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

13. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitutions, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation;

14. For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

15. For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States;

16. For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

17. For imposing taxes on us without our consent;

18. For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of a trial by jury;

19. For transporting us beyond seas, to be tried for pretended offenses;

20. For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies;

21. For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering, fundamentally, the forms of our governments;

22. For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

23. He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

24. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

25. He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the

most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

26. He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

27. He has excited domestic insurrection among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in our attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigrants and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind—enemies in war; in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare that these colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved, and that, as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

The foregoing declaration was, by order of Congress, engrossed, and signed by the following members:

JOHN HANCOCK

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Josiah Bartlett,
William Whipple,
Matthew Thorton.

RHODE ISLAND.

Stephen Hopkins,
William Ellery

NEW YORK.

William Floyd,
Philip Livingston,
Francis Lewis,
Lewis Morris

MASSACHUSETTS BAY

Samuel Adams,
John Adams,
Robert Treat Paine,
Elbridge Gerry.

CONNECTICUT.

Roger Sherman,
Samuel Huntington,
William Williams,
Oliver Wolcott.

NEW JERSEY.

Richard Stockton,
John Witherspoon,
Francis Hopkinson.
John Hart,
Abraham Clark.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Robert Morris,
Benjamin Rush,
Benjamin Franklin,
John Morton,
George Clymer,

James Smith,
George Taylor,
James Wilson,
George Ross.

DELAWARE.

Caesar Rodney,
George Read,
Thomas M'Kean.

MARYLAND.

Samuel Chase,
William Paca,
Thomas Stone,
Charles Carroll, of Car-
rollton.

VIRGINIA.

George Wythe,
Richard Henry Lee,
Thomas Jefferson,
Benjamin Harrison,
Thomas Nelson, Jun.,
Francis Lightfoot Lee,
Carter Braxton.

NORTH CAROLINA

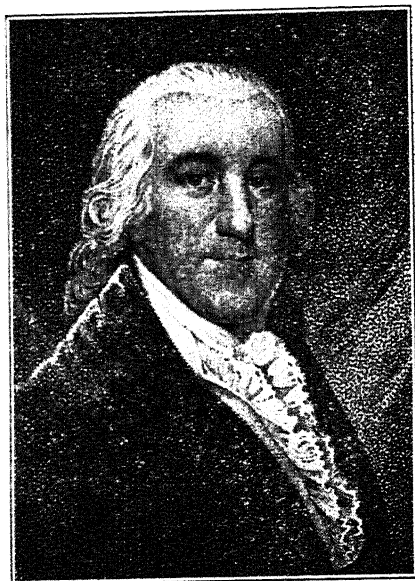
William Hooper,
Joseph Hewes,
John Penn.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Edward Rutledge,
Thomas Heyward, Jun.,
Thomas Lynch, Jun.,
Arthur Middleton.

GEORGIA

Button Gwinnett,
Lyman Hall,
George Walton.



Edward Rutledge

Born in S. Carolina November, 1749
Died Jan. 23, 1800

The print of Mr. Rutledge
is taken from one
"Drawn and Engraved by J. B. Longacre
from a Painting by Earle".

EDWARD RUTLEDGE

Edward Rutledge, the youngest Signer of The Declaration of Independence, was the son of an Irish physician who emigrated to South Carolina in 1735 and settled in Charleston. Soon after his arrival, Dr. John Rutledge married Miss Hert, a young lady with an ample fortune, and when she was 27 years old Dr. Rutledge died leaving her with seven small children and Edward was the youngest.

During his boyhood, Edward was noted for his vivacity, charm, docility and affection for his mother who gave him all advantages of an education. When still in his teens, he began to study law in his older brother's Charleston law office and at the age of 20 he went to England to finish his education. In 1773, he returned to begin practice in Charleston and to marry Miss Harriet Middleton, sister of Signer Arthur Middleton and daughter of Henry Middleton, second president of Continental Congress. They had a son and a daughter. After his first wife died he married Mary Everleigh, widow of Nicholas Everleigh, and daughter of Thomas Shubrick and she survived Mr. Rutledge many years.

At the age of 25, he was elected to the First Continental Congress, from South Carolina. He affixed his signature to The Declaration of Independence while he was still 26 years old, three months younger than Thomas Lynch, Jr.

During the summer of 1776, he served on the committee with Franklin and John Adams to meet Billy Howe on Staten Island and discuss peace. The visit, as was anticipated, accomplished nothing except for an incident that Mr. Rutledge often related later. Just before they landed at the Battery in New York City, Dr. Franklin loudly jingled coins in his pocket and, when they were safely ashore, he offered the sailor escorts a handful, but their commanding officer would not allow them to accept. Asked later why he had done this, Franklin replied, "As these people are under the impression that we have not a farthing of hard money in the country, I thought I would convince them of their mistake". And then the old fox added, "I knew at the same time, that I risked nothing by an offer which their regulations and discipline would not permit them to accept".

Captain Rutledge commanded a battery of artillery in his home state in 1780 and did a good job of it until he was captured by the British and served twelve months in a St. Augustine prison before he was brought back to Philadelphia and exchanged. Later he was advanced to a colonel in the artillery.

Taking the place of C. C. Pinckney, he served as U. S. Senator in 1794. In 1798, he was elected Governor of South Carolina and died in office.

Colonel Rutledge stood about five feet eleven and was quite a corpulent man. He had a fair complexion and with his smiling countenance and jovial manners he was universally admired. His old-fashioned manner of dress was long remembered by his friends.



Arthur Middleton

Born in South Carolina in 1743
Died Jan. 1, 1787

The print of Mr. Middleton
is taken from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre
after a drawing taken by
T. Middleton from a group
in a Family Picture by Benjamin We

ARTHUR MIDDLETON

Middleton Place, on the banks of the Ashley River, the country-seat of his father, Henry Middleton, was the birthplace of Arthur Middleton, Signer from South Carolina.

Arthur was the oldest of two sons and five daughters and he was sent to England at the age of 12 to be educated. He entered school at Hackney, then a popular preparatory school. Two years there and then to another school in Westminster where after four years he entered Cambridge, and being a conscientious student he graduated from here at the age of 22 with honors.

He remained in England and Europe for some time for self-improvement, spending several months in Rome where he became proficient as an artist and painter.

In 1768, he returned to South Carolina and shortly after married the gracious and accomplished daughter of Walter Izard, Esq.

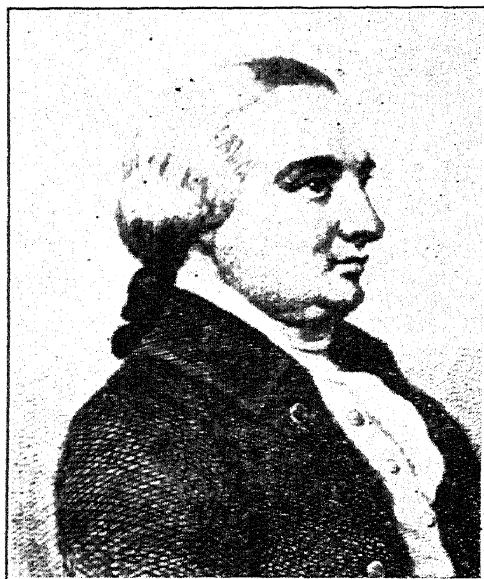
Desirous of showing his young wife some of the beauty spots of Europe, they went to England a year after their marriage and after sojourning there and on the continent they returned home in 1773, taking up their residence on the family seat which Arthur's father had relinquished to him. Here in the possession of wealth and domestic happiness the future looked very bright, indeed, for these two young people.

But war clouds began to hover and Arthur and his father both stood forth in defense of their fellow Americans. Henry Middleton went to the First Continental Congress and served as its second President (Oct. 22, 1774 to May 10, 1775). Arthur went as a delegate in the Spring of 1776 and was there to vote for and sign The Declaration of Independence at the age of 33. He continued as a congressman until the end of 1777.

Then in 1779 on came the British hordes, with their Tory allies, into his state and the Arthur Middleton property lay directly in their path. He hurriedly removed his wife and several children and let the vandals ravage and they lost no time at all in the ravaging. His excellent library was scattered to the winds and his collection of paintings was "wantonly mutilated".

On the siege and capture of Charleston, he had the option of avoiding military service, but like the thoroughbred he was, not holding a military commission—he entered the ranks of the Americans as a common soldier. In consequence, he was taken prisoner and sent to St. Augustine, Florida, being liberated in Philadelphia one year later, through an exchange of prisoners.

For a number of years after the Revolution, he served in his state legislature, but in 1787 he contracted intermittent fever and died on the first day of the following year. Mrs. Middleton survived him and lived to see their eight children take their places as honored ones in the new Republic. The descendants of those children are now listed among our honored citizens.



Wm Whipple

Born in Maine, 1730
Died Nov. 28, 1785

The print of General Whipple
is reproduced from one
"Etched by H. B. Hall from
a drawing in the collection
of Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, 1871".

WILLIAM WHIPPLE

Healthy and jovial looking, William Whipple, Signer from New Hampshire, the oldest son of William Whipple, was born in Kittery, Maine, while that state was a part of the province of New Hampshire.

He received a good elementary education in Kittery schools, but went to sea when still a boy and in a very few years had accumulated quite a fortune.

At the age of 29, he quit the sea and entered a merchantile business with his brother, Joseph, in Portsmouth.

He married his cousin, Miss Catherine Moffat, and they had one child that died in infancy.

He soon became known as a man of excellent judgment and became very popular in his community; to such a degree that on February 29, 1776 he took his seat in Congress and was present on July 4, 1776 to vote for The Declaration of Independence.

For the next three consecutive years he was re-elected to that exalted body, but being a military man he was allowed considerable time off, although he was particular about keeping in touch with the congressional body during his absences.

As a Brigadier General in the New Hampshire State Militia, he was active in the campaign against Burgoyne at Saratoga; was even one of the commissioners to arrange the terms of surrender.

In 1778, he joined Sullivan in the unsuccessful expedition against the British in Rhode Island. That campaign was personally disastrous to General Whipple. A ball so shattered his leg that it had to be amputated. In the matter of a few months, however, he buckled on his wooden leg and resumed his seat in Congress.

In 1782, he was appointed by Robert Morris as financial agent in New Hampshire, but resigned this office during the year and was appointed Judge of the Superior Court of New Hampshire. This court at that time consisted of four judges. The Chief Justice had to be a lawyer, but the other three were chosen from citizens of practical education and sound judgment. While on the bench Judge Whipple developed a serious heart condition that eventually ended his life at the age of 55. To promote the advancement of medical knowledge he had requested that a post-mortem examination be held. This was done and "it was found that a portion of his heart had become ossified or bony".

Yes, in the physical sense of the word General Whipple had become "hard-hearted", but not in the human sense. During one army expedition he was accompanied by his colored boy named Prince. He told Prince that if they went into action he hoped he would fight bravely for his country. Prince told his master that he had no inducement to fight, but if he had his liberty he would fight to the last drop of his blood. Then and there General Whipple gave complete freedom to his black slave, Prince, who had been one of his chattels from the time he had picked him up when he was little more than a baby on one of his expeditions to Africa.



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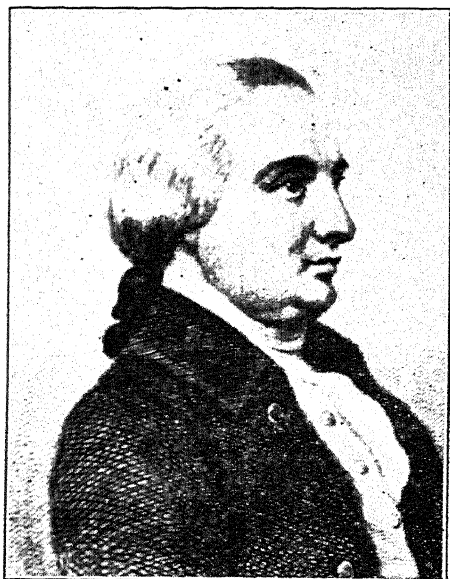
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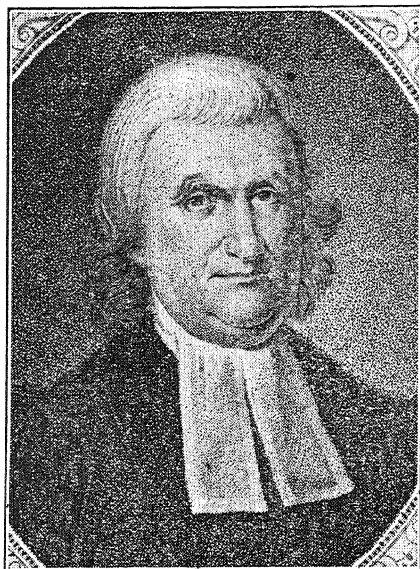
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Dr Witherspoon

**Born in Scotland Feb. 5, 1722
Died Nov. 15, 1794**

The print of Dr. Witherspoon
is reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre
from a Painting by C. W. Peale."

JOHN WITHERSPOON

John Witherspoon, Signer from New Jersey, was a direct descendant of John Knox. He was the son of a Scotch Presbyterian minister and he received his elementary education in a school at Haddington. At 14 he was placed in the University of Edinburgh. He was a diligent student and completed a regular theological course and graduated a licensed preacher at the age of 22.

He first preached at Beith then moved to Paisley and it was here that he met Richard Stockton from America. He had previously refused appointments in Dublin, Dundee and Rotterdam and the trusteeship of New Jersey College, but after talking with Stockton about the New World he reconsidered the latter and in August of 1768 he arrived in Princeton where on the 17th of that month he was chosen President of the college. Doctor Witherspoon was not only a good preacher, but a good business man and Princeton soon rose, under his leadership, to eminence among the other American colleges.

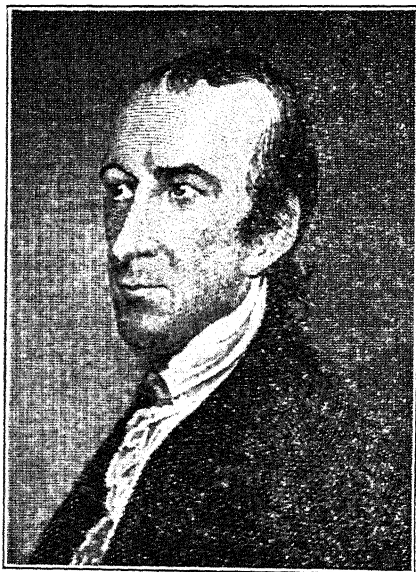
At the battle in Princeton the college was pretty well broken up, but he was called elsewhere into action. He helped form a new constitution for New Jersey and in June, 1776, he was elected to the General Congress. He voted for, and on August 2, 1776, signed the Declaration of Independence. A few days previous to July 4th, one of his colleagues said that he believed the colonies were "not yet ripe for a declaration of independence". The good Scotch Presbyterian preacher, in thick Scotch brogue, replied, "In my judgment, sir, we are not only ripe, but rotting!"

Dr. Witherspoon was always very punctual in Congress and except for a short time in 1780 he held office until 1782. It was difficult for anyone to trifle in the presence of the good doctor and in his college he had real discipline. In dignity and presence he stood very close to George Washington in bearing. He was nice looking, finely proportioned and stood six feet in height. He could not be considered austere, but men never tried the art of back-slapping on him, no more than on Washington.

In Scotland, he married Miss Montgomery and she with their three sons and two daughters accompanied Dr. Witherspoon to America. The oldest son, James, was a major in the army and was killed at the battle of Germantown. The second son, John, became a physician. David became a lawyer in South Carolina. In 1780, he acted as private secretary to Samuel Huntington, President of Congress.

The doctor's second marriage caused a bit of tongue-wagging. He was then seventy and his young bride only twenty-three. But he was a shining example of rugged individualism, had a mind of his own and used it. Shortly after his second marriage he was stricken totally blind, but even then he continued his preaching, both at home and abroad, although he was often led to the pulpit.

Lossing sums his life up beautifully in these words, "As a theological writer, Dr. Witherspoon had few superiors, and as a statesman he held the first rank. In him were centered the social elements of an upright citizen, a fond parent, a just tutor, and humble Christian".



Thos. Stone

Born in Maryland in 1743
Died Oct. 5, 1787

The print of Mr. Stone is
reproduced from one
"Drawn by J. B. Longacre from a
Painting by Pine—Engraved by G. B. Ellis."

THOMAS STONE

Tall, slender, pale and thin faced Thomas Stone, Signer from Maryland, was outstanding for his deep and even fatal devotion to his beloved wife.

This son of David Stone was born at Pointon Manor in Charles County, Maryland. As a child he was zealous for knowledge and he possessed an untiring quality of industry which continued throughout his short span of life. He would rise at dawn, saddle the horse his father had allotted him and ride ten miles to the school of Mr. Blaisedel to acquire knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages. This opportunity of an early education was the only inheritance Thomas received from his parents because his oldest brother, Samuel, according to the laws of the day, came under the rights of primogeniture.

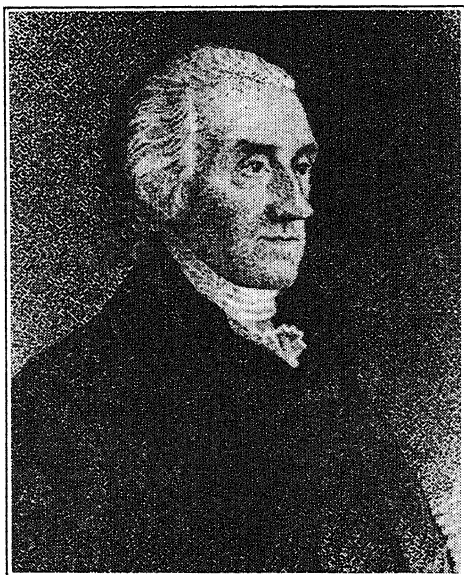
To further his education he borrowed money to study law from Thomas Johnson of Annapolis with whom a deep friendship ensued and Thomas began active practice at the age of 21. He married Margaret, the youngest daughter of Dr. Gustavus Brown of Charles County, Maryland. This beautiful 18 year old girl had come to him with a small dowry of one thousand pounds sterling.

It is not known, but suspected, that this dowry was used in his purchase of a farm near the village of Port Tobacco and the historian Sander-son says, "Upon this farm his family, with four of his infant brothers, resided during the revolutionary struggles."

On December 15, 1774, he took his seat in Congress and was re-elected so that he was present to vote for and sign The Declaration of Independence at the age of 33. In 1784, for a short time, he served as President of Congress, pro tempore, and had he desired, could have doubtless been elected to the then first office of the land, but he modestly stepped aside for Richard Henry Lee who was so elected on November 30, 1784.

This good Episcopalian never wanted responsibility to interfere too much with his home-life. He resigned from Congress in 1784, and began a private practice in Annapolis that became very remunerative and he liked this because he could be near Margaret.

Back in 1776, she had come to Philadelphia with him and at that time the city was infested with small-pox. Mrs. Stone was inoculated and the mercurial treatment followed. Immediately thereafter her health began to decline and she became a partial invalid, but through the years her husband, a man of affectionate and lovable disposition, accorded her all possible tenderness. On the first of June, 1787, she died in Annapolis and this was a death-dealing blow to her husband. From this time on he declined all public and private business except what was necessary to put his affairs in order. His friends rallied around him, but to no avail. His physicians ordered a sea voyage which he finally consented to and he went to Alexandria to take the boat for England. Before embarking he died suddenly previous to attaining the age of 45.



Robt Treat Paine

Born in Boston in 1731
Died May 11. 1814

The print of Mr. Paine
is reproduced from one
"Drawn and Engraved by
J. B. Longacre, from a
Sketch by Savage".

ROBERT TREAT PAINE

Robert Treat Paine, Signer from Massachusetts, was the son of a lawyer and the grandson of the Rev. Treat of Eastham.

He acquired his early education under James Lovell, the Latin instructor in Boston and entered Harvard College at the age of 14. Graduating from college, he taught in the public schools for some time and this was considered a very honorable vocation in New England. Saving up enough money he made a journey to Europe and upon his return he decided to enter the ministry, having had previous training in theology. He reached occasionally in Boston and its vicinity and then enlisted as a chaplain in a military expedition to the north in 1755.

After returning to Boston, he gave up the idea of becoming a minister (perhaps the Acadian Tragedy had something to do with it?) and he engaged in the study of law under barrister Benjamin Pratt. During this period, however, he ran short of money and went back into the teaching profession, although he continued his law studies, and finally set up practice in Taunton, Bristol County.

The historians, William Brown and Charles Pettis, mention, in their volume, published in Philadelphia in 1828, that he had a family, but no details are given.

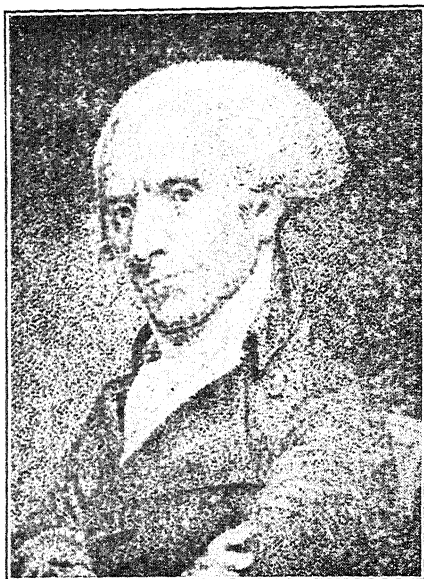
In May of 1775, he was one of the five delegates from Massachusetts to attend the General Congress in Philadelphia and he was present to vote for and sign The Declaration of Independence. He served on many committees in Congress and was considered a valuable member.

He was one of the founders of the American Academy which was established in Massachusetts in 1780 and served as its counsellor until his death. He received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Cambridge.

In 1777, he was appointed Attorney-General of Massachusetts and held this office until 1790.

In 1780, he was a member of the Convention that framed the Constitution of Massachusetts, and in 1790 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court where he served until 1804, resigning on account of deafness and advanced age, although he lived ten years longer.

In his funeral sermon, the Rev. Dr. McKean said of him, "His intellectual, moral, and religious character, were strongly marked with sterling integrity. Uprightness eminently directed his usual course of domestic and social duty. Justice was the constant aim of his official service. Of regular temperate habits, and cheerful temper, he was spared to a good old age. He enjoyed his faculties unimpaired to the last: retained his interest in his friends and country; its religious, civil, and literary institutions; rejoiced in its good, lamented its delusions; was impressed with its dangers, and prayed for its peace."



Elbridge Gerry

Born in Massachusetts July 17, 1744
Died November 23, 1814

The print of Vice-President Gerry
is reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre
from a drawing by Vanderlyn."

ELBRIDGE GERRY

At the time of the birth of Elbridge Gerry, Signer from Massachusetts, his father was engaged in a successful merchantile business in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Soon after graduation at Harvard in 1762 Elbridge entered into the same business as his father and very soon accumulated a comfortable fortune. He was popular with his fellow-citizens and being sympathetic to their cause against Great Britain he was seated in the general court of Massachusetts Bay in May of 1773.

In the Spring of 1775, he was a member of the First Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. The night before the battle of Bunker Hill he and Dr. Warren slept in the same bed. The next day Gerry departed for Provincial Congress at Watertown and Dr. Warren for the battle-field on which he was killed.

In January, 1776, Mr. Gerry took his seat in Continental Congress, a Massachusetts delegate, and he was happy to sign his name to the Declaration of Independence on August 2, 1776.

In the winter of 1777, he was appointed on a committee to visit General Washington at Valley Forge and the result of this visit produced the desired effect on Congress. More efficient measures were adopted as speedily as possible for the support and relief of our army.

It would be an endless task to fully trace the good work and efforts of Mr. Gerry while in Congress.

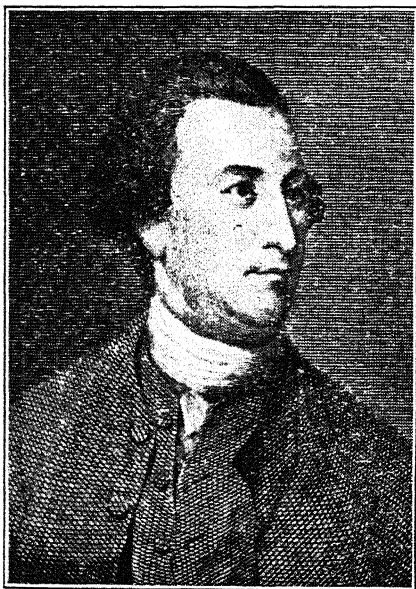
In 1780, he retired to look after his private interests, but he was re-elected congressman again in 1783. In 1785, he again retired and made Cambridge his home.

Under the new Constitution he was twice elected a member of the House of Representatives.

Under President John Adams, he was chosen minister to France during a time of severe stress in diplomatic relations between the two countries. Pinckney and John Marshall, his co-workers were ordered out of the country by France, but Gerry remained upon invitation. Of him as a diplomat, President Adams said, "He finally saved the peace of the nation, for he alone discovered and furnished the evidence that X. Y. and Z. were employed by Talleyrand; and he alone brought home the direct, formal, and official assurances, upon which the subsequent commission proceeded, and peace was made."

In 1810, he was elected Governor of Massachusetts and in June, 1812, he was nominated and in the fall of that year elected the fifth Vice-President of the United States of America. He was sworn to his new duties on March 4, 1813 and on the 25th of May following, he took his seat as constitutional president of the Senate.

Elbridge Gerry made an exceptional Vice-President. He presided over our Senate with diligence and constancy until November in 1814, when he was seized with a sudden illness and died on the 23rd of the month. He was buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington where Congress erected a monument to his memory.



Wm. Paca

Born in Maryland Oct. 31, 1740
Died in 1799

The print of Mr. Paca is
reproduced from one
"Engraved by P. Maverick from
a drawing by J. B. Longacre

WILLIAM PACA

William Paca, Signer from Maryland, was the second son of John Paca and was born at Wye Hall in Harford County, Maryland.

His father was the possessor of large estates and spared no expense in securing the education of his children. William was sent to Philadelphia College and graduated as a bachelor of arts on June 8, 1759. Immediately thereafter he commenced the study of law in Annapolis.

In May, 1761, he married Mary, the daughter of Samuel Chew, a distinguished and wealthy gentleman residing in Ann Arundel County, Maryland. At the beginning of the American Revolution Mary Paca died. She had given birth to five children, of which only one, John P. Paca, survived his father.

In 1777, Mr. Paca was married a second time to Miss Anna Harrison of Philadelphia. Three years later Anna also died leaving a young son, who did not long survive.

Mr. Paca was admitted to the bar in 1760 and a year later, at the age of 21, he was a member of the Maryland Provincial Assembly.

In 1774, he was chosen a member of the First Continental Congress and voted for and signed The Declaration of Independence in 1776 at the age of 36. He remained a member of Congress until 1778 when he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland.

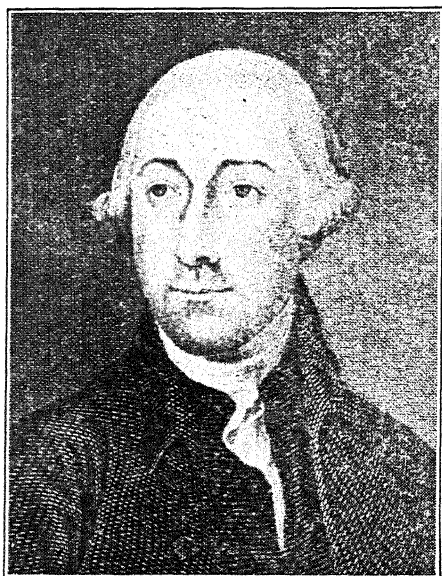
In 1782, he was elected Governor of his native state and after holding office for one year he returned to private life. He was probably the most popular Governor Maryland had in the early days. He was especially kind to young men seeking advancement.

The members of the Society of Cincinnati in Maryland elected him their vice-president in 1784 and it appears that he held this office until his death.

After the death of Governor Smallwood in 1786, Mr. Paca was again called in and accepted the office of Governor of Maryland for the unexpired term.

In 1789, President George Washington appointed him Judge of the district court of the United States for Maryland in which office he continued until his death just before he was 60 years old.

To his son, John P. Paca, and to all his descendants, William Paca left an illustrious and an untarnished name commendable for his virtue in both public and private life and to his country a shining example of what an unselfish soul, imbued with the love of liberty, can really accomplish when his heart is in the work he believes in.



Joseph Hewes

Born in New Jersey in 1730
Died Oct. 29, 1779

The print of Mr. Hewes is
reproduced from one
"Drawn by J. B. Longacre from a
Painting in Possession of
Joseph Hewes Davis, Esq.—Engraved
by F. Kearny."

JOSEPH HEWES

The parents of Joseph Hewes, Signer from North Carolina, were natives of Connecticut and by religious faith were Quakers. After their marriage they moved into New Jersey and settled on a farm at Kingston, where Joseph was born.

While not definite he is supposed to have been educated at Princeton College. Kingston was only a short distance. When his studies were completed he was apprenticed to a Philadelphia merchant and soon became qualified in the profession of commerce. His father then advanced him some money and he went into business for himself and soon became highly successful.

When he was 30 years old, he moved to Edenton, North Carolina, and here he soon became so popular for his success, his honor and fine social qualities that he was provided a seat in the colonial legislature of North Carolina. He discharged his duties so well in this capacity that he was re-elected several consecutive terms.

He was made a North Carolina delegate to the First Continental Congress in 1774 and was at once placed on the committee to draft a Declaration of Rights. He was re-elected to Congress and appointed chairman of the naval committee which, in effect, made him our first Secretary of the Navy.

He had no fear of voting for and signing The Declaration of Independence as North Carolina had taken an early and decided stand on this issue. He knew too that his personal sanction of such a daring document meant a blow to his private ventures just as it did to the private affairs of Robert Morris, but, like Morris, he signed just the same.

For a born Quaker, he eventually became quite gay in Philadelphia, even to the extent of enjoying the company of pretty women at Philadelphia's social affairs.

As soon as he could leave the session of 1776, he did so to return to North Carolina and look after his private interests that were becoming the worse for lack of care. For the next two and a half years, he considerably overworked himself and he suffered very much physically.

In July of 1779, when he returned to his seat in Congress, he was a sick man and, although he actively resumed his duties, his health declined during the next three months, so that the last session he was able to attend was on October 29th. From this time he was confined to his bed until his death on the tenth of November. He was the only Signer to actually die in office as his demise occurred in Philadelphia.

As to family connections Sanderson says, "He left a considerable fortune, but no children to inherit it."



William Ellery

Born in Rhode Island Dec. 22, 1727
Died Feb. 15, 1820

The print of Mr. Ellery
is reproduced from one
"Etched by H. B. Hall from a
Drawing in Collection of
Dr. T. A. Emmet 1871."

WILLIAM ELLERY

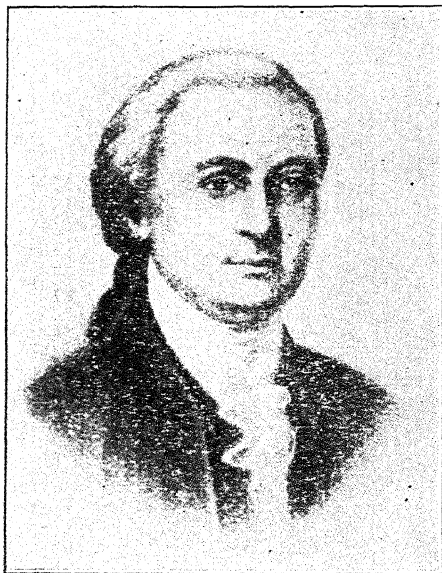
William Ellery, one of the two Signers from Rhode Island, was born in Newport and received his early education from his father, William Ellery the older, who had held the offices of judge, senator and lieutenant-governor and was a brilliant man.

When his father thought he was qualified, young William entered Harvard College. After receiving his degree in 1747, he returned to Newport and began the study of law. He was soon admitted to the bar and for 20 years he enjoyed an active and a lucrative practice in his native city. Much of his profits went into the purchase of Newport real estate.

Mr. Ellery took his seat in Continental Congress on May 4, 1776 and at the age of 49 voted for and signed the Declaration. He was deeply interested in the reactions of each and every one of his colleagues as they signed their names and he made it his business to watch their faces. Reporting on this he said, "I was determined to see how they all looked, as they signed what might be their death warrant. I placed myself beside the secretary, Charles Thomson, and eyed each closely as he affixed his name to the document. Undaunted resolution was displayed in every countenance."

In 1785, he and Rufus King of New York made great efforts to abolish slavery in the United States. Apparently, they had tackled a problem three-quarters of a century too previous, but while they were working on it Captain Abraham Lincoln had recently moved his family from Virginia to Jefferson County, Kentucky, and was doing quite well. Captain Lincoln was born in Pennsylvania, but was in Virginia during the American Revolution and had served and served well as captain in the Rockingham County Militia of Virginia. His wife was Bethsheba Herring Lincoln and his three sons were Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas. In May of 1786, the youngest son, Thomas, was the first to reach his father's side after a lurking Indian had killed this veteran and pioneer. Thomas Lincoln later became the father of a son, whom he named after his father and this tall, gangling grandson of Captain Abraham Lincoln, while the 16th President of the United States, signed his name, on January 1, 1863, to the Emancipation Proclamation which freed all the slaves in our country thus fittingly completing the efforts of Rufus King and William Ellery. But out of it all too much suffering was involved, too much American blood was spilled and a great and grand American, Abraham Lincoln, of good and substantial birth, if you please, the son of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, was made a Martyr to the Cause. And this former struggling lawyer of Springfield, Illinois, was also the means of holding together that great government that William Ellery and fifty-five of his colleagues formed in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.

Quietly and peacefully William Ellery, while reading his favorite Cicero, passed away at the home of his daughter, in the 93rd year of his life.



Geo Walton.

Born in Virginia in 1740
Died Feb. 2, 1804

The print of Colonel Walton
is taken from one
reproduced from the painting
in the Doctor Thomas Addis Emmet
Collection.

GEORGE WALTON

Very little is known of the childhood of George Walton, Signer from Georgia. He was born in Frederick County, Virginia, and at an early age became apprenticed to a carpenter. Lossing says, "He was possessed of an inquiring mind, but his master's authority hung like a mill-stone about the neck of his aspirations", and the boy was given no time to read during the day and no lights for study at night. But this did not stop his determination to acquire knowledge.

During the day he quietly collected torch wood and at night in the privacy of his bedroom he studied. Thus when his apprenticeship finally ended he had accumulated a surprising amount of knowledge. Wanting then to put distance between his master and himself he set out for the province of Georgia.

Under the tutelage of Henry Young, Esq., he began the study of law and at the age of 34 in 1774 he began active practice in Savannah.

Being very active for liberty and strong in patriotism he was, in February of 1776, appointed delegate from Georgia to the Continental Congress.

Congress was in session in Baltimore when he joined, being in fear of an attack on Philadelphia from Cornwallis, but very soon they moved back to the Quaker City and George Walton was there to vote for and sign the Declaration.

He remained in Congress until near the end of 1778 when he received the news that he was appointed colonel of a regiment in his home state. He hurried to Georgia to join his command and the American General Robert Howe. He was in the engagement at Savannah, received a severe bullet wound in the thigh and was taken prisoner. He was soon exchanged, however, and in October 1779 the Georgia Legislature appointed him Governor of the state.

He went back to Congress in January 1780, but in October of the same year he resigned to again take over the governorship of Georgia which he held a full term.

At the close of his governorship, he was appointed Chief Justice of Georgia and held this position for the balance of his life even while he served a term as United States Senator in 1798.

Colonel Walton had been active most of his life and he was not an abstemious man. He always possessed a healthy appetite and in his early sixties this began to tell on him and he became afflicted with the gout which caused him a great deal of suffering during his later years. But this carpenter's apprentice was one of the best loved men in Georgia when he died at the age of 64.

He had an only son of whom he was very proud. This son served as Secretary of State under General Jackson when the latter was Governor of West Florida.



Phil. Livingston

Born in New York State January 15, 1716
Died June 12, 1773

The print of Mr. Livingston is
reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre from an
Original Painting in the possession of
J. T. Jones, Esq., of New York".

PHILIP LIVINGSTON

Dignified Philip Livingston, Signer from New York, was the oldest of three sons of Robert Livingston and was born in Albany.

After a thorough preliminary education he entered Yale and graduated therefrom in 1737. He then went into a commercial business for himself in New York City, made good and his first experience in politics came in 1754 when he was elected alderman of the East Ward. The figures for the population of New York City during that year are set at 10,881. Mr. Livingston served New York as alderman for nine consecutive years.

In 1774, he and his nephew, Robert R. Livingston, were elected delegates from New York to the First Continental Congress and they continued to serve as congressmen and were present when the Declaration of Independence was voted in and carried. The nephew did not sign but his Uncle Philip did, and at all times the latter supported the great undertaking. Perhaps, the truth will never be known just why Robert R. Livingston, this brilliant graduate of King's College, and even a member of the committee to draft the document, never signed the Declaration. Will old records some day be found to explain? At any rate Robert R. Livingston was as fine an early American as ever lived.

Philip Livingston was elected to the first Senate of New York State under the new constitution adopted at Kingston on April 20, 1777, and in October of that year he was again elected a delegate to Congress under the new New York State Constitution.

The wife of Mr. Livingston was Christina, daughter of Colonel Dirck Ten Broeck. They had eight children, five sons and three daughters. Back of Philip Livingston was an ancestry to be proud of and his descendants carried on ably and well; permanent and substantial citizens of the State of New York.

On May 5, 1778, Mr. Livingston again took his seat in Congress which was then assembled in York, Pa. His family were at Kingston at the time and feeling ill when he departed he seemed to have a premonition that he would never see them again. So tenderly he bade Christina and his family good-bye, with the exception of his youngest son, Henry.

He attended his congressional duties until his weakness finally forced him to leave the sessions in the early part of June. His son, Henry, who was then living with General Washington's family was notified and the 18 year old boy hurried to his father's bedside in time to see him die.

Mr. Livingston was a fine citizen and an ardent promoter for any venture that was conducive to the public good. He was one of the founders of the Chamber of Commerce of New York City; also of the New York Society Library. He was desirous that New York take its place among the other provinces in a seat of learning and education and consequently was instrumental in establishing and in the building of King's College which was, after the American Revolution, known as Columbia College and continues in New York City today.



Josiah Bartlett

Born in Massachusetts November, 1729
Died May 19, 1795

The print of Mr. Bartlett
is reproduced from one
in the possession of the author.

JOSIAH BARTLETT

Josiah Bartlett, Signer from New Hampshire, was born in Amesbury, Massachusetts. His mother's maiden name was Webster and she was a cousin to the father of our famous Daniel Webster. His paternal ancestors were emigrants from Normandy to England and the family name is conspicuous in early English history.

He had early instruction in Greek and Latin and at 16 he "commenced the study of physics".

At the age of 21, in 1750, he began the practice of medicine in Kingston, New Hampshire. In 1752, he was seized with a serious illness and local doctors gave him up. The young doctor was not specially alarmed. He had a strange craving for the taste of apple cider and ordered his two young men attendants to get some for him. Each swallow he took seemed to cool his fever and he drank a large amount. The next morning he felt quite normal and in a few days was physically sound. He then decided that he would change his methods of medicinal practice and he did much research work in herbs and natural remedies. It was Dr. Bartlett who discovered the utility of Peruvian bark as a remedy for cankers and throat diseases.

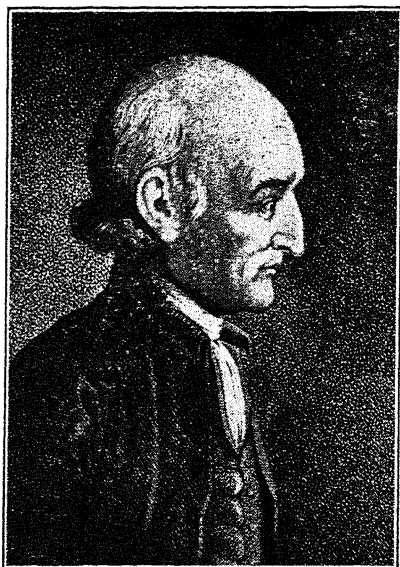
In 1765, he was elected to the provincial legislature of New Hampshire and his political life began. He went to the First Continental Congress from New Hampshire in 1774 and was there in 1776 at the age of 47 to vote for and sign the Declaration of Independence.

In 1778, he obtained congressional leave to attend to his private business affairs and visit his family. Dr. Bartlett had married a Miss Bartlett from Kingston and Brown and Pettis say he "had some sons". Mrs. Bartlett preceded him in death by six years.

He was elected a Senator under the new Constitution and served his term in New York where the Capitol was located at that time.

He was elected President of New Hampshire and Governor under the new Constitution in 1793. He held the office of Governor one year, after which he retired.

He died at the age of 66.



George Wythe

Born in Virginia in 1726
Died June 8, 1806

The print of Mr. Wythe is reproduced
from one "Drawn and Engraved by
J. B. Longacre, from a Portrait
in the American Gleaner."

GEORGE WYTHE

This Signer from Virginia was the oldest child of wealthy parents. His father died when he was quite young and his training fell upon his mother, a well educated lady.

When George was 20, his mother died and left him in complete control of a large fortune. Lossing describes his next few years as follows: "His character not having become fixed, he launched out upon the dangerous sea of pleasure and dissipation, and for ten years of the morning of his life he laid aside study and sought only personal gratification."

And then almost overnight something happened. He began the study of law under John Lewis and in 1757 was admitted to the bar. From then on George Wythe became known as an honorable man in business and morals.

He was appointed Chancellor for the State of Virginia and held the office for life. In 1775, he was elected a Virginia delegate to Continental Congress and he signed the Declaration of Independence at the age of 50.

In 1777, he was chosen Speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses and was appointed one of the three judges in the high court of Chancery. He served as professor of law at William and Mary College, but resigned when he moved to Richmond.

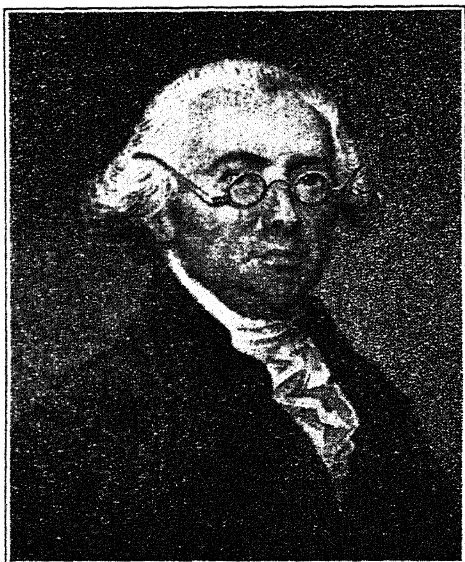
Mr. Wythe was twice married. One child died in infancy from his first wife. The second wife, whom he also outlived, had no children so he had no direct descendants to inherit his large estate.

He was fond of a slave-boy whom he had educated and by his last will he had bequeathed a large part of his property in trust for his three freed negroes; a man, a woman and this boy. His books and "philosophical apparatus" were to go to his "valued friend, Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States." The remainder of his estate he bequeathed to George Wythe Sweney, the grandson of his sister.

The freedman died and a first codicil was made to his will directing that the legacy to the freedboy be increased with the provision that if the freedboy died before his "full age" then "the bequest to him should enure to the benefit of Sweney, the residuary legatee."

On a morning early in June, 1806, the freedboy died a violent and sudden death and Judge Wythe himself was taken ill with vicious abdominal pains. Becoming suspicious of his grand nephew he hurriedly made a second codicil wherein he mentioned that the freedboy "died this morning" and all the devises previously made to George Wythe Sweney were revoked and the whole of his estate was left "to the other grandchildren of my sister, the brothers and sisters of George Wythe Sweney, to be equally divided between them." And in a few hours and with great agony the Judge passed away.

After his funeral the grand nephew was arrested and brought to trial for the poisoning of his uncle and the freedboy, but he was acquitted by the jury.



James Wilson

Born in Scotland in 1742

Died Aug. 28, 1798

The print of Mr. Wilson
is reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre from
a miniature in possession of Mrs. Hollingsworth".

JAMES WILSON

James Wilson, Signer from Pennsylvania, was a native of the Lowlands of Scotland. He was born in the neighborhood of St. Andrews, once the metropolis of the Pictish kingdom, and famous for its university founded in 1411.

His people were not wealthy but they possessed character and their son, James, received "an excellent classical education".

He landed in New York in 1766 and then came to Philadelphia where he showed such fine recommendations from his instructors that he was installed at once as an assistant teacher in Philadelphia College.

In a few months, he began the study of law under the famous John Dickinson, a very prominent patriot, and after two years he entered business in Reading. He moved from there to Carlisle, Pa.; from there to Annapolis and finally established his business and residence back in Philadelphia. He had inherited some of his father's speculative tendencies. The latter died a poor man. The mother re-married and James often sent her money even when he was somewhat embarrassed himself.

Mr. Wilson was first married in 1771 to Miss Rachael Bird, youngest daughter of William Bird, proprietor of an iron-works in Birdsborough, on the Schuylkill in Berks county. Rachael became the mother of six children and died in April, 1786. Miss Hannah Gray was Mr. Wilson's second wife. She was the daughter of Ellis Gray, a merchant in Boston. One son, Henry, by this marriage died in infancy.

In May of 1775, he was chosen a delegate to Continental Congress, along with Franklin and Thomas Willing. He was re-elected in 1776 and warmly supported and signed the Declaration of Independence at the age of 34.

Previously, in 1774, Mr. Wilson had been elected colonel in a Pennsylvania regiment but so many political duties were imposed upon him that he saw no active service—except in defending some neighbors and himself against an armed mob in 1779—although through his influence the Pennsylvania line was much benefitted.

Gerard, the French minister became so impressed in 1780 with the versatility and qualifications of Mr. Wilson that he appointed him the Advocate General of the French nation in the United States. In 1781, the appointment was confirmed by the French king but when Mr. Wilson discovered in a few months that he was serving the French government without pay he complained of bad treatment and resigned.

He was elected several terms to Continental Congress and in 1787 was chairman of the committee that reported the first draft of our new Federal Constitution. He was one of the six common Signers to also sign the Constitution and under this new Constitution President George Washington appointed him a judge in the Supreme Court of the United States in October, 1789.

As a Supreme Court judge he made journeys into other states and on one of these trips into North Carolina he died at the home of his friend, Judge Iredell of Edenton, at the age of 56.



Carter Braxton

Born in Virginia Sept. 10, 1736
Died Oct. 10, 1797

The print of Mr. Braxton
is reproduced from one
supposedly etched by A. Rosenthal.

CARTER BRAXTON

Carter Braxton, Signer from Virginia, was the son of George Braxton, a wealthy planter and he was born at Newington in King and Queen County, Virginia.

At the early age of 19, he graduated from William and Mary College and forthwith married Miss Judith Robinson, the daughter of Christopher Robinson another wealthy Virginia planter. Mr. Carter inherited from his father and grandfather great tracts of land and numerous slaves in King William County on the Pamunkey River and another large expanse in Amhurst County. Judith Braxton too brought a good sized dowry to her husband and this addition made Carter Braxton approximately second in wealth in Virginia to our beloved Washington.

Judith Braxton became the mother of two daughters but died at the birth of the second one, before she was 21 years old, in December, 1757.

Shortly after her death Mr. Braxton departed for England and remained there nearly three years, coming back to Virginia in the autumn of 1760.

He married the second time to Miss Elizabeth Corbin, oldest daughter of Richard Corbin, a resident of Lanneville in King and Queen County. Mr. and Mrs. Braxton became the parents of sixteen more children, six of whom died in infancy.

His home was ever open to his friends and he was one of the most cordial and affable hosts that ever graced the province of Virginia. In all this ease and comfort it is surprising that he took opposition to the English king, but he was one of the first Virginians to raise his voice for patriotism.

In 1765, he was a member of the house of burgesses. In December, 1775, after the death of Peyton Randolph, first president of that great body, he was selected to fill the vacancy in Continental Congress. While he was still 39 years of age, he signed the Declaration of Independence.

Shortly after the beginning of the Revolution he unwisely increased his commercial pursuits on a large scale. Disaster after disaster occurred. He invested heavily in ocean vessels and ship after ship was captured and sunk by the British. He sold some of his land to cover the losses, but eventually, with the depreciation of our currency, much of his property was seized by the sheriff. He called on his friends for aid and many of them came to his assistance including two of his sons-in-law who themselves crumpled under the burden.

At the end of the Revolution he was crushed financially and spiritually and at the age of 61, after two paralytic strokes, he died a heart-broken man. Through the assistance of close friends his widow, Elizabeth, managed to save enough from the wreckage to keep her from absolute want during her last years.

In spite of his financial failures Carter Braxton was a much loved man in Virginia and the historian Conrad says of him, "Legitimate misfortune ought to command our respect—not call forth censure".



Geo Taylor

Born in Ireland in 1716
Died Feb. 23, 1781

The print of Mr. Taylor
is reproduced from the one
in B. J. Lossing's Signers
of the Declaration of American
Independence and published by
J. C. Derby, 8 Park Place,
New York in 1854.

GEORGE TAYLOR

The rise of George Taylor from redemptioner to a nationally-known and wealthy man is as spectacular as the rise of those fictitious and clean-minded Alger heroes that men now in their forties used to read when they were boys.

Very little is known of George Taylor's parentage or his early life in Ireland except that he received a good rudimentary education and was an able penman.

In the year of 1737, a boatload of redemptioners docked at Philadelphia. A gentleman of wealth stood on the dock. This businesslike but kindly gentleman's name was Savage. His keen eye eventually focused on a 21 year old Irish youth. Mr. Savage engaged in conversation with the captain of the ship. He finally counted out the money and paid the ocean transportation cost for George Taylor. In return for the favor George bound himself for a term of years to Mr. Savage. The latter took him to his iron-works in Durham, Pennsylvania, and put him to work as a "filler". Now a "filler's" job was simple enough but not easy. He had to keep the blast furnace filled with coal. At the end of the first day George's hands were blistered. By noon of the second, the blisters had broken and a fellow-workman told the boss.

Mr. Savage was not a hard-hearted man. When he saw George's hands he decided to give him a turn at his books. The results were pleasing to the boss. George Taylor wasn't obliged to heave coal any longer in that baking heat of the blast furnace. He was very happy in his new position. His schooling in Ireland and especially his penmanship was coming in handy. He served out his redemption period and was put on the payroll. He was very apt in learning the essentials of a great business.

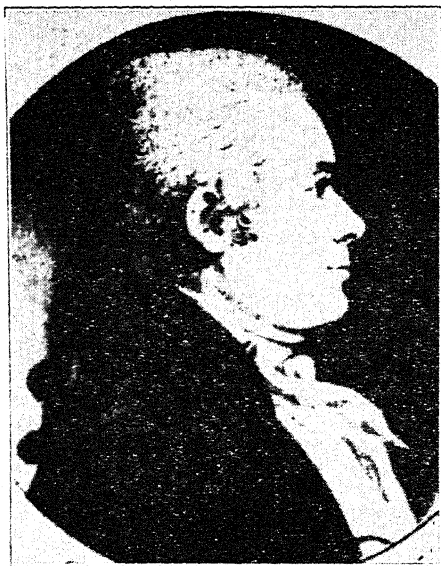
Time passed and one day Mr. Savage died suddenly. Former redemptioner Taylor took over active management.

More time passed and on a certain afternoon George Taylor married Mrs. Savage, the widow of his former master. Once redemptioner Taylor was then not only the proprietor but the owner of the business.

George Taylor was not a member of Continental Congress when the Declaration of Independence was voted on. The dissenting delegates at that time caused a shakeup. Those against the Declaration resigned or were ousted and the patriot Taylor was seated in Congress on July 20, 1776. He signed the Declaration on August 2nd.

In 1777, he resigned his seat to attend to his long neglected business. He and Mrs. Taylor moved to Easton, Pa., where he could be near his beloved iron-works and the last four years of his life were peaceful and prosperous ones.

His Easton neighbors said of him, "He was a fine man and a furious whig".



Caesar Rodney

Born in Delaware in 1730
Died in 1783

The print of Mr. Rodney
is reproduced from one
received from the Library
of Congress.

CAESAR RODNEY

The fast and furious ride of Caesar Rodney from his farm in Delaware to Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 3rd and 4th, in 1776 has not been widely advertised but it was just as significant to American history as was the famous ride of Paul Revere.

Caesar Rodney was the youngest of a number of sons of well-to-do parents but he was the only surviving son. He was educated well and he inherited not only the ample estate of his father, but the popularity that his family enjoyed in the province of Delaware.

He came into the political limelight in 1758 when he was elected sheriff of Kent County, Delaware. For several years he was Speaker of the Assembly of Delaware and he was a member of the Stamp Act Congress. In 1774, he was elected to Continental Congress, but being a military man he was commissioned Brigadier General of Delaware in 1775. So like some of the other Signers he was alternately in Congress and in the army.

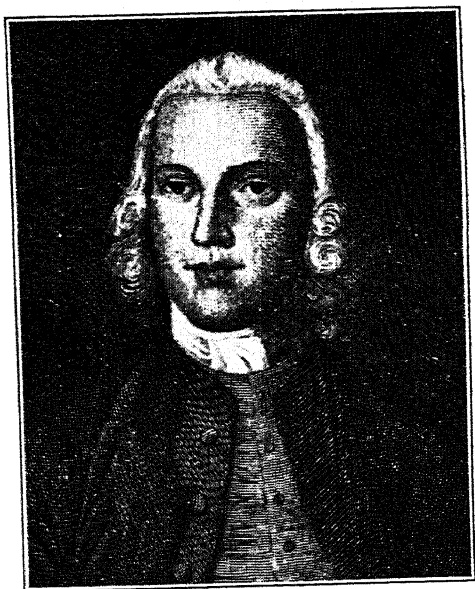
He was absent during the period of debate on the Declaration and in the forenoon of July 1st, his friend Thomas McKean sent him an urgent note by a mounted messenger to hurry to Philadelphia and arrive on the 4th. General Rodney received the note about midnight on the 2nd and little time elapsed before he was on his horse headed for Philadelphia. The journey would have meant punishment for a man of health because the summer was an extremely hot one. General Rodney, however, had suffered for a number of years with a cancer on his cheek. It ceaselessly ate into the flesh toward his eye and for protection and from pride he wore a mask over that eye and side of his face. It is said that on the last lap of the eighty odd mile journey he stayed in his saddle for an eighteen hour period and the frail "animated skeleton" arrived in Congress on July 4th, to give Delaware the necessary majority vote for independence.

Surely his presence and affirmative vote did much to swing Pennsylvania in line because it was after Rodney had voted that John Morton from Pennsylvania voted for independence breaking the deadlock for that state although ruining the very life of John Morton thereafter for the courage of his convictions.

General Rodney served thereafter under Washington in the army during 1777 and that autumn he was again elected to Congress although he declined the seat because he decided to serve as Governor of Delaware.

As the years wore on the sufferings of General Rodney increased due to the facial cancer which caused his death in 1783.

It is again repeated that Caesar Rodney's race against time to arrive in Philadelphia on the all-important date was fully as significant, though not as widely repeated in verse and song, as was the famous ride of Paul Revere.



Geo. Ross

Born in Delaware in 1730
Died July 1780

The print of Mr. Ross
is reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. W. Steel
from the original picture."

GEORGE ROSS

This versatile Signer from Pennsylvania was the son of the Reverend George Ross, an Episcopalian minister in New Castle, Delaware, so naturally the son received a good education and was particularly schooled in Latin and Greek. At the age of 18, he began the study of law in his brother John's law office in Philadelphia and in three years he was admitted to the bar and opened up a law office in Lancaster. He had not practiced long in Lancaster when he met, courted and finally married Miss Ann Lawler one of the pretty young ladies of the town.

George Ross became a very successful attorney in that Pennsylvania town and apparently was unambitious for a political career but he was brilliant and he was a patriot and in 1768 he was chosen to represent Lancaster in the Pennsylvania Assembly. Year after year he was re-elected to that body and in 1774 he was chosen a Pennsylvania delegate to the First Continental Congress. He was one of the boldest young attorneys of his day. His friends claimed that George Ross was unafraid of the devil himself.

When he was 36 years old he signed the Declaration of Independence and he remained in Congress until 1777.

George Ross was a kind-hearted man and in his benevolence he often pled the cause of the Pennsylvania Indian whom he considered in need of more justice than was meted out to him. It was his contention that if a little human kindness was accorded the Red man there would be no wholesale massacres in the province. He cited the treatment accorded by William Penn who, in turn, received only kindness from the Indian.

Even the cases of Tories were taken by George Ross although that was dangerous business because the Tories were more heartily disliked by the patriots than were the British or their Hessian allies. What so incensed the Americans against the Tories was their refusal to sell their grain to Washington's half-starved army and rather than let the Americans take it by force some of them were even known to burn it in their fields.

In April of 1779, Mr. Ross was appointed judge of the court of admiralty for the State of Pennsylvania, but in this position he served only a few months and died in office.

Of the personal characteristics of this man who died at the age of 50 Sanderson says, "In his domestic habits he was kind, generous, and much beloved; in his professional career zealous and honorable; as a politician always active and patriotic; and he seems to have well deserved the praise which was bestowed on him by one who knew him, as "an honest man and upright judge."



Thos. Heyward Junr

Born in South Carolina in 1746
Died in March, 1809

The print of Mr. Heyward
is reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre from a
Miniature in the Possession of Mrs. Heyward".

THOMAS HEYWARD, JR.

Colonial Daniel Heyward, of St. Luke's parish, in the province of South Carolina, was the father of Thomas Heyward, Jr., Signer from South Carolina.

Thomas was one of our younger Signers and was the oldest child of wealthy parents. He was early placed in one of the best schools of the province and became very proficient in Latin.

At 18 he entered the office of lawyer Parsons where he diligently assumed his studies and at the age of 20 his father sent him to England. In the Temple he studied with his usual zeal and became a brilliant and polished lawyer.

Before returning home he visited the continent and observed the modes of life in the different countries with interest, never forgetting his affection for his native land.

When he was about 25 he came back to South Carolina and in the year of 1773 he married Miss Mathews, "a lady of an amiable temper, and a beautiful person."

He became prominent in his patriotic ardor and was chosen a delegate to Congress in 1775. He signed the Declaration of Independence at the age of 30.

Mr. Heyward was captain of one company of the Charleston Ancient Battalion of Artillery and Edward Rutledge was the other. When the British attacked Savannah this battalion fought bravely but Captain Heyward was wounded and he suffered the same fate as did Rutledge and Middleton. He was made a prisoner and taken to St. Augustine, Florida.

In that seige the majority of the patriots of the southern army under General Lincoln were made prisoners and had it not been for the successes of Greene, Marion (the swamp-fox) and Sumpter the patriots of the South might have despaired and surrendered.

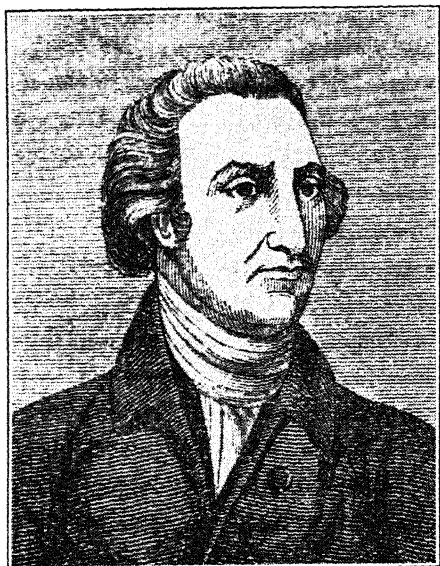
While Captain Heyward lay in prison the British went to his plantation and captured all his slaves, numbering about 200. They were taken to Jamaica and sold at auction to the sugar planters. He later recovered some of them but his loss was placed at \$50,000.

Not only did he receive this property loss while in prison but another and more crushing one in the death of his beloved wife.

After his release he resumed his seat upon the bench to which he had been appointed while in army service and he continued as judge until 1790.

In 1786 he married a Miss Savage and they became the parents of three fine children who comforted his latter years.

In 1799 he withdrew from public life and spent his last ten years in about the same manner as did Job of Bible days. He died at the age of 63 years.



Jas Smith

Born in Ireland About 1720
Died July 11, 1806

The print of Mr. Smith
is reproduced from the one
in Lossings volume,
Signers of the Declaration,
and published by J. C. Derby,
8 Park Place, New York, in 1854.

JAMES SMITH

This eccentric Signer from Pennsylvania came from Ireland to Pennsylvania with his parents and many brothers and sisters when a child. They settled on the banks of the Susquehanna River.

James was the second oldest son and he was educated in the school of the Reverend Doctor Allison where he acquired knowledge in Latin and Greek and some surveying.

After his course in the Allison school he entered the law office of his older brother in Lancaster. The brother died just before James completed his course and instead of seeking another law office he left for the wilderness in the west where in the sparsely settled area he acted as lawyer and surveyor for a few years and then came back and settled in York, Pa.

He married Miss Eleanor Armor of Newcastle, Delaware, and for a number of years enjoyed a fine legal practice in York where he was the only attorney.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of three sons and two daughters. One son and one daughter survived their father.

Mr. Smith's correct birthdate was apparently never ascertained by his family and friends. This was one of the oddities of his character. He was however always a jovial and witty gentleman although a man of strict morals and deep religious convictions.

He was the first to organize a company of militia in Pennsylvania and eventually he received the commission of colonel. He is given the honor of founding that military body known as "Associators" which before 1776 numbered 20,000 men. On account of his advanced age he never served in the field during the American Revolution.

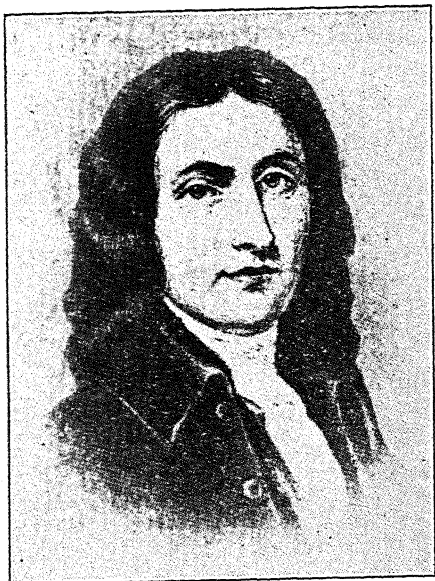
Colonel Smith was not present when the Declaration of Independence was voted on. He took his seat in Continental Congress on July 15, 1776 and signed the great instrument on August 2nd. He served in Congress until the spring of 1777 and resigned to devote his time to his legal practice in York.

When, however, Congress in avoiding the British, moved to his own town of York he again accepted a seat and retired after the battle of Monmouth.

From then on he shunned political office but was induced to accept one term in the Legislature of Pennsylvania in 1779.

His last few years were ones of domestic tranquility and happiness.

In the cemetery of the English Presbyterian church in the city of York his monument records his age as 93. It is possible that during his last illness the old Colonel might have confided in a close friend or relative his correct birthdate. If this was true his birth occurred in 1713 instead of the tentative date of 1720.



John Hart

Born in New Jersey about 1714
Died in 1780

The print of Mr. Hart
is reproduced
from a painting by
John Singleton Copley
(1737-1815)
in Independence Hall.

JOHN HART

This Signer from New Jersey was called "Honest John Hart" by his neighbors and described by Lossing as "one of the most unbending patriots of the Revolution".

He was the oldest son of Edward Hart and was born on a farm near the pleasant little city of Hopewell, New Jersey. His practical education was acquired in a local school and when he grew up he became a good farmer just as his father before him.

In his late twenties he married Miss Deborah Scudder and to this union came thirteen children who grew to manhood and womanhood on their father's 400-acre farm in Hopewell Township.

The print of the painting shown was made of Mr. Hart many years before he entered Congress. In those days he was a handsome man. He stood about five-feet-ten; had an erect carriage and was well-proportioned. He had grey eyes, dark complexion and jet black hair. He and his family were members of the Baptist church in Hopewell township and he donated the ground for the church and cemetery. In the latter can now be seen the Quincy granite shaft, erected by the State of New Jersey, that marks the place of his burial. It was dedicated on July 4, 1865, by Governor Parker.

Mr. Hart was a man of extreme kindness and justice always predominated in his family and friendly relationships.

During the French war his father, then a man in his sixties, raised a volunteer corps in 1759, named the "Jersey Blues", and assisted in the capture of Quebec. John was then in his forties and did not join his father. He was busy tilling his farm and looking after the welfare of his young family.

When the Revolution broke he was a well-to-do farmer and having always borne the reputation of ability and sound judgment, he was called to the First Continental Congress; was re-elected in 1775 and '76 and was present to vote for and sign the Declaration of Independence.

After the American army retreated through New Jersey in 1776 great marauding parties of British and Hessians followed and they were bent on capturing Hart, the Signer. Some of his unmarried children sought safety with friends farther north in Jersey. Not finding him, the marauders pillaged his farm and stock. To escape capture he left the bedside of his dying wife upon her insistence. He was chased through woods and hills with unworthy perseverance. For a long period he slept in the houses of friends but not twice in the same house. On one occasion he was the bedfellow of a big dog in a dog house.

After the battles of Trenton and Princeton he and his unmarried children came home to repair his property. His property was easily enough repaired but not his constitution. He was an old man and the severe strain had told on him. He lived to see great prospects for the document he had signed and for the United States of America but not in its fullness of glory because he died a year before Cornwallis surrendered.



Benjamin Rush

Born in Pennsylvania Dec. 24, 1745
Died April 19, 1813

The print of Dr. Rush
is reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre
from a Painting by Sully".

BENJAMIN RUSH

This Pennsylvania Signer was born at Berberry about twelve miles northeast of Philadelphia. He was the grandson of an officer in Cromwell's army who migrated to Pennsylvania.

Benjamin's father died when he was six years old and he and a younger brother were left in care of their mother. They lived on a small farm and his mother being a resourceful person sold the land and moved to Philadelphia where she opened a small business. She became successful enough to educate her two sons and do the job well. Benjamin Rush eventually became so prominent and so successful that some of his accomplishments will only be listed briefly.

At the age of nine he entered the academy at Nottingham, Maryland, under the Rev. Dr. Findlay. At 16 he had graduated from Princeton. He wanted to study law but on the advice of Dr. Findlay he took up medicine instead, enrolling under Dr. Redman of Philadelphia. In 1766 he went to England and studied medicine. In 1768 to Paris and Scotland receiving the title of "Doctor of Medicine" at Edinburgh and returning home in the autumn of 1769. He commenced practice at once in Philadelphia and was soon the outstanding physician in that large city. He was made professor of chemistry in Philadelphia Medical College in 1769. He was elected to a seat in Congress in 1775 but declined. After the Pennsylvania snakeup in 1776, however, he took his seat and while not present on July 4, 1776 he signed the great document on August 2nd following. His polished manners and kind-heartedness to rich and poor alike made him a great favorite with all who knew him. He made it a practice never to charge a clergyman nor an officer of the American Revolution for medical services.

In 1777 he was made physician-general of all military hospitals of the middle department and thus resigned from Congress. In 1788 he was appointed president of the mint and held the job fourteen years.

The great qualities of physician, humanitarian, philanthropist and Christian showed up in Dr. Rush during the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793. The disease was so contagious, pernicious and fatal that even physicians began to leave the city and noting this he called some of his faithful pupils together and said, "As for myself, I am determined to remain. I may fall a victim to the epidemic, and so may you, gentlemen. But I prefer, since I am placed here by Divine Providence, to fall in performing my duty, if such must be the consequence of staying upon the ground, than to secure my life by fleeing from the post of duty allotted in the Providence of Gd. I will remain, if I remain alone." His pupils remained with him and Dr. Rush's written description of that terrible plague is one of the finest pieces of composition in the English language. Eventually Dr. Rush himself fell a victim to the disease but he recovered.

Dr. Rush raised a large family that lived in abundance. He advised his Doctor son to "be kind to the poor". Sanderson says, "On the day of his funeral, the streets were lined with thousands who shed tears of heart-felt sorrow for the loss of their kind and humane benefactor."



Clymer

Born in Philadelphia in 1739
Died Jan. 23, 1813

The print of Mr. Clymer
is reproduced from one
"Engraved by J. B. Longacre from
An original miniature by Trott".

GEORGE CLYMER

George Clymer, Signer from Pennsylvania and one of the six Signers who was also a Signer of our Constitution, was left an orphan when he was seven years old. His mother's brother, William Coleman, a wealthy citizen of Philadelphia took him into his family and raised and educated him as he would a child of his own. When he had completed his common school education his uncle took him into his counting-room to fit him for commercial pursuits. Later George entered the employment of Mr. Robert Ritchie.

In 1765 he married Miss Elizabeth Meredith and went into business with his wife's father, Mr. Reese Meredith, a well-known Philadelphia philanthropist. Shortly after his marriage his uncle, Mr. Coleman, died leaving him a substantial estate as an heir.

Mr. Clymer early took up the cause of the colonies and in 1774 he became Captain of a local military company in General Cadwallader's brigade and he was soon appointed on the Pennsylvania Council of Safety. He took his seat in Congress on July 20, 1776 and while not present to vote for the Declaration of Independence he signed it on August 2nd and served as a Congressman until 1777.

After the battle of Brandywine it was generally known that the British were headed for Philadelphia. He moved his family into the country but the British were close on his heels and followed him. The family group narrowly escaped capture. They left their personal belongings behind and these were destroyed by the pursuers.

In 1780 he was again elected to Congress and served until 1782. He was appointed a "Deputy" to the Constitutional Convention and signed the Constitution along with Franklin, Sherman, Robert Morris, James Wilson and George Read, who composed the six common Signers signing both great documents.

Under the new Constitution he served as Congressman from 1789 to 1791. He served for a time as supervisor of revenue for the State of Pennsylvania. He served as first President of the Philadelphia Academy of Arts and Sciences and was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society.

Sanderson says, "Mr. Clymer was of the middle size, erect in his person, of a fair complexion, and a pleasing countenance. His features were strongly marked with intelligence and benevolence. He died on the twenty-third of January, 1813, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, at the residence of his son, at Morrisville, Bucks county, Pennsylvania."



Lyman Hall

Born in Connecticut in 1721
Died in 1784

The print of Dr. Hall
is reproduced from one
in the possession of the writer.

LYMAN HALL

This Signer from Georgia was the son of well-to-do parents and spent his early life in Connecticut. He entered Yale at the age of 16 and graduated therefrom at 20.

Before he attained the age of 21 he was married and had commenced the study of medicine. He acquired the title of M. D. and then began practice.

In 1752 he moved to Dorchester, South Carolina. Within the year he moved to Sunbury, Georgia, "accompanied by about forty families, originally from the New England States."

He was an ardent patriot and did a whole lot of "missionary work" for the cause among the people who had recently come into Georgia from England. Button Gwinnett was numbered among his "converts".

He was appointed in March, 1775, as delegate to Congress, representing the parish of St. John, Georgia, and he was present to vote for and sign the Declaration of Independence.

He served in Congress until 1780 and then resigned to take care of his practice and personal business.

After the British captured Charleston he moved further to the north but his property was confiscated.

In 1783 he was elected Governor of Georgia and served one term.

He was preceded in death by his only son and only child. He had success in building up a good practice after his losses at the hands of the British so his widow was left in comfortable circumstances.

The last paragraph of Sanderson's biography of him says, "He was about six feet high, and finely proportioned; his manners were easy and polite, and his deportment affable and dignified; the force of his enthusiasm was tempered by discretion, and he was firm in all his purposes and principles; the ascendancy which he gained, sprung from his mild, persuasive manner, and calm, unruffled temper, Possessed of a strong, discriminating mind, he had the power of imparting his energy to others, and was peculiarly fitted to flourish in the perplexing and perilous scenes of the revolution."



Gym Hooper

Born in Boston June 17, 1742
Died in October, 1790

The print of Mr. Hooper
is reproduced from one
etched by H. B. Hall from
a drawing in the collection
of Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet.

WILLIAM HOOPER

This Signer from North Carolina was the oldest son of brilliant and educated parents. He was a precocious child but he had an extremely delicate constitution. He received much of his early instruction from his father and he spent some time in the popular school conducted by John Lovell in Boston.

At the age of fifteen he entered Harvard College and from there he received the degree of bachelor of arts. His parents wanted him to become a minister but he preferred to study law and he enrolled under the well-known James Otis.

His frail health continued and he decided to seek a milder climate than New England's so he commenced his law practice in North Carolina in 1767 and in that region he soon stood at the head of the bar. He also had the pleasure of meeting Miss Anne Clark of Washington, North Carolina. It was a case of "love at first sight" and in the autumn of 1767 they were married. His wife was the sister of General Thomas Clark, afterward a well-known Revolutionary officer. Mr. and Mrs. Hooper became the parents of two sons and one daughter.

Mr. Hooper was an active patriot but in the year of 1770 he took the side of the government against a group who were known as "Regulators". They claimed to be patriots but such a large majority were made up of ignorant fellows and they were so destructive in their "down-with-everything" attitude that Mr. Hooper's advice was taken and the militia was called out to disburse about three thousand of the rioters. This was done and order was restored.

He took his seat in the First Continental Congress on September 12, 1774. He was re-elected the next two terms and in January, 1776, he, Dr. Franklin and Mr. Livingston were placed on a committee to in some way honor the memory of General Montgomery recently killed in action at Quebec. To express the love and veneration of the people of the United Colonies they advised and recommended that a monument be erected in his honor. This was later done by Congress in the City of New York. He was absent a good part of that spring to attend to personal matters in his home state, but was present to both vote for and sign the Declaration of Independence.

In 1777 he obtained leave from Congress and moved his family from Wilmington to his plantation on Masonborough Sound, but enemy aggressions soon obliged him to move from here into the interior of the state. In November, 1781, however the enemy evacuated Wilmington and he moved his family back. Shortly thereafter he moved to Hillsborough.

In 1786 he was appointed a judge of the federal court by Congress, but on account of his failing health he gave up the office in 1787 and resigned from active business at the age of 45. Three years later he died and his widow and three children survived him.



Matthew Thornton

Born in Ireland in 1714
Died June 24, 1803

The print of Dr. Thornton is reproduced from one in the volume MATTHEW THORNTON OF NEW HAMPSHIRE by C. T. Adams, Phila., 1903.

The engraving was submitted by Commander James S. Thornton to two aunts of his who recognized it as a copy of an old miniature which they had seen in possession of the family.

MATTHEW THORNTON

This Signer from New Hampshire, the last Signer of the Declaration of Independence, came from Ireland with his parents at the age of three and settled at Wiscasset in Maine. Soon after the family moved to Worcester in Massachusetts and here Matthew received his academic education.

His father was desirous that he become a professional man so he enrolled under Dr. Grout, of Leicester, Mass., and after his preparatory course he began the practice of medicine in Londonderry, New Hampshire.

He soon earned the reputation of a fine physician and surgeon and his large practice eventually made him a man of means.

He was appointed a military surgeon and embarked for Cape Breton in 1745 with a division of five hundred men. He took such fine care of this group of men that previous to the surrender of that place only six had died from illness and they had been subjected to great exposure.

At the beginning of the American Revolution he held the rank of Colonel in the New Hampshire Militia.

Dr. Thornton was not in Congress when the Declaration was voted on. Neither was he present on August 2nd, when fifty-four members signed. He was not appointed to Congress by his State until September 12, 1776 and he did not take his seat until the fourth of November following. On the day he was seated he asked for permission to sign the great document and permission was readily granted. He served in Congress until the end of 1777.

He served for a time as judge of the superior court of New Hampshire.

In 1779 he changed his residence to Exeter and in 1780 he purchased a farm on the banks of the Merrimac River.

Dr. Thornton stood about six feet in height and was well-proportioned. His complexion was dark and he had a grave face, seldom smiling, but was possessed of much droll wit. He had a dignified and commanding personality, although he was not austere.

When he was eighty years old he suffered a severe attack of whooping cough.

He was popular in the several localities where he lived and he possessed deep affection for his children and grandchildren.

While on a visit to one of his daughters he died in Newburyport, Massachusetts. His body was taken to New Hampshire and interred only a short distance from Thornton's ferry on the Merrimac River. He was survived by two sons and two daughters.

On the white marble slab adorning his grave, in spite of the passing of time and the work of the elements, three words still stand out in clearness: "An Honest Man".

1776 VERSUS 1940

Before introducing our last Signer this question in the mind of the reader might have arisen: Do our present day Congressmen care anything about the Signers, the signers of our Constitution and the Senators and Representatives that have followed and do they know anything about them?

The answer is decidedly yes. A good statesman is of necessity an historian. A recent and specific case is cited.

George A. Dondero, Congressman from the Seventeenth District of the State of Michigan, is an authority on American History. For many years he has been a diligent student of and a capable lecturer on Abraham Lincoln. He had an intimate acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln and with members of Mary Todd Lincoln's family.

With his exemplary life and his honesty of purpose he can be classed an outstanding present-day American patriot.

His Independence Day Address, delivered on the floor of the House on July 3, 1940, is herewith presented without his knowledge or consent by one who has deemed it an honor to be his friend and admirer for a number of years.

**Congressional Record, Washington, Wed., July 3, 1940—76th Congress
The Fourth of July**

MR. DONDERO. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning we will celebrate the one hundred and sixty-fourth birthday of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States. I wonder when we awaken tomorrow whether we will be thinking about the pleasures of the day or whether our memories will turn backward down through the years to the scene that took place at Independence Hall in the city of Philadelphia, to the men who were there and to the principles which they were giving to the world. If we are good Americans we will refresh our memories on what those men did July 4, 1776. Had their cause failed they would all have suffered an ignominious death. What courage and faith they had in the problem which lay before them. I wonder if we have the same faith and the same courage to espouse the cause which they gave to the world 164 years ago.

A few days ago with bared head and a reverent attitude but with gratitude and pride for American citizenship, I stood within that cradle of American freedom at old Independence Hall in the city of Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed.

In that chamber is the chair used by Washington as president of the Convention that created the Constitution—the little desk on which the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed, the very inkwell and the chairs used by the delegates.

As one stands in that historic place, one visions the scene and the men who brought forth a new conception of government on this earth, namely, the right of man to govern himself. They labored to lift the weights from the shoulders of mankind. Failure meant death to every one of the 56 men who signed that immortal document, the Declaration of Independence.

We pay tribute to their memory and express our gratitude for the legacy of a free Republic which we received from them, by celebrating the one-hundred and sixty-fourth anniversary of the day on which they made their heroic decision to be free.

What faith and courage they must have had in their cause to draft and sign the birth certificate of our Republic. In the light of this hour, I sometimes wonder if we have justified their courage and faith.

It is an old custom to bring gifts on a loved one's birthday. Believing that we all love and revere our country, what gifts do we bring to her on her natal day? That question prompts the asking of another. What gifts are appropriate on this day? Not money, not glory, not honor, not power; these are attributes that belong to her now.

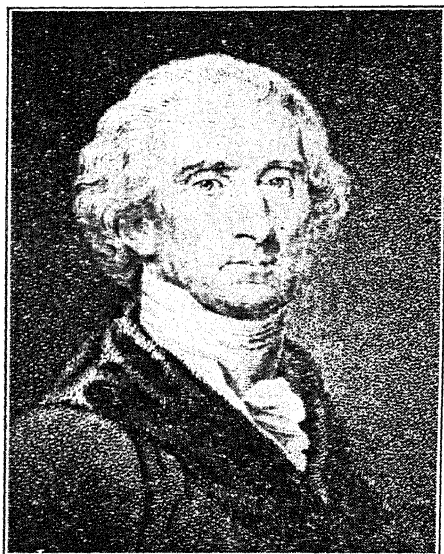
What, then, should we bring, my fellow countrymen? We should bring ourselves, our loyalty, our patriotism, our services, and our love for this our native land. On this day of all days we should pledge anew our faith and dedicate ourselves to our country, for here is the last refuge of a free people.

These are the gifts we can bring to the land we call home. We can and we must insist that the alien and the stranger within our gates shall do likewise. As loyal citizens we can make sure that he who seeks the protection and generosity of our laws shall obey them or move out. So let us, on our Nation's birthday, bring gifts of loyalty, patriotism, and obedience, without which even this Government, great as it is, cannot long endure.

Members of the House, let me say in closing, may the clock of time never point to the hour or the day when Americans can no longer celebrate the birthday of our Republic.

God bless America,
It is our home, sweet home.

Breathes there a man
With soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land?



Charles Carroll of Carrollton

**Born in Annapolis, Md., Sept. 20, 1737
Died Nov. 14, 1832**

The print of Mr. Carroll is reproduced from one "Drawn & Engraved by J. B. Longacre from a Painting by Field".

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON

This delegate from Maryland, the last surviving Signer and the longest-lived Signer, was the son of Charles Carroll of Annapolis and the grandson of Charles Carroll, the Settler, who came from Ireland to Annapolis in 1688.

He attended the Jesuit school at Bohemia Manor, Cecil County, Maryland, and at the age of eleven his father entered him in the Jesuit College at St. Omer, France, where he remained four years and then began the study of civil law in the Jesuit College at Rheims, continuing at the College of Louis le Grant, Paris, at Bourges and in the Temple in London.

He returned to Maryland in 1765 and at the age of 31, in 1768, he married Miss Mary Darnall. Three children were born to this union; a son, Charles Carroll of "Homewood" who married Miss Harriet Chew, one of the most beautiful girls in not only America, but in the world; and two daughters: Mary, who married Richard Caton; and Catherine, who became the wife of General Robert Goodloe Harper. Mr. Carroll was a Roman Catholic and previous to the Revolution he was not allowed to hold public office on account of his religion.

He never lived on his plantation named Carrollton in Frederick County, but for many years prior to the Revolution he added the two words "of Carrollton" to his name and signature to be distinguished from his father and a cousin of the same name, both of whom were prominent in Maryland at the time.

At the outbreak of the Revolution he owned some 90,000 acres estimated at "upwards of 200,000 pounds Sterling" and the value doubled in later years. Therefore he was probably the wealthiest man in the new United States, ranking even ahead of Washington.

In 1773 he came into public view when he conducted his famous controversy with Daniel Dulaney, the Elder, in the Maryland Gazette, taking up the popular cause in no uncertain terms.

After Mr. Carroll had returned to America his friend, Mr. Graves, a member of the English parliament, wrote him and in mentioning the American disturbances, he ridiculed the idea of colonial resistance, declaring that a small army of 6,000 British soldiers "would march from one end of the continent to the other." Mr. Carroll's answer to his friend was this, "So they may, but they will be masters of the spot only on which they encamp. They will find nought but enemies before and around them. If we are beaten on the plains, we will retreat to our mountains and defy them. Our resources will increase with our difficulties. Necessity will force us to exertion; until, tired of combatting, in vain, against a spirit which victory after victory cannot subdue, your armies will evacuate our soil, and your country retire, an immense loser, from the contest.—No, sir,—we have made up our minds to abide the issue of the approaching struggle, and though much blood may be spilt, we have no doubt of ultimate success."

In 1775 he was elected a delegate from Anne Arundel County to Congress. In the winter of 1776 he made the journey with Franklin and Chase to Canada for aid against the British. Their efforts were unsuccessful and they returned in June of 1776.

Mr. Carroll was not present in Congress when the Declaration was voted on. He was re-seated however on July 18th and was there to sign the great document on August 2nd. He remained in Congress until 1778 when he resigned to devote himself to the politics of his own state. In 1788 he was elected Senator from Maryland under the new Constitution, holding the seat until 1791 and was re-elected again in 1796. In 1804 he retired from active political life.

At the end of the Revolution Mrs. Carroll died and he remained a widower for fifty years. Until around 1799 he spent much time at his town house in Annapolis, now the Rectory of St. Mary's Catholic church. Thereafter he lived at the homes he had either built or purchased for his daughters. His principal seat was "Doughoregan Manor". This was a 10,000 acre estate on which his father had built a home about 1750. After the Signer's death "Doughoregan" was much enlarged by his grandson, Col. Charles Carroll, and is now owned by his great-great-grandson, Mr. Philip A. Carroll.

In 1802 he built "Homewood" for his son, Charles Carroll of "Homewood" who preceded his father in death by seven years. "Homewood" is now used for the offices of the President of John Hopkins University. In Green Valley, near Baltimore, he built the mansion "Brooklandwood" for Mary Cato. He also purchased for her the house known as the "Carroll House" on the corner of Lombard and Front Streets in Baltimore and it was here that he died. He gave his daughter, Catherine Harper, the estate "Oakland" (now Roland Park) in the northern suburbs of Baltimore. The house burned long ago "but the old dairy of classical design now adorns the grounds of the Baltimore Museum of Art."

After his retirement from political life he retained his keen mind and energetic spirit. He was a promoter of the Potomac Company and its successor the Chesapeake and Potomac Canal. He became an organizer and director of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, breaking ground for it on July 4, 1828, exactly two years after John Adams and Thomas Jefferson had died and Mr. Carroll continued as lone surviving Signer of the Declaration of Independence for another four and a half years.

The descendants of the last surviving Signer are numerous and of excellent reputation. It might be interesting to take just one line of his family and bring it to date. Mr. Carroll's son, Charles Carroll of "Homewood", became the father of Colonel Charles Carroll of "Doughoregan". The latter was the father of Robert Goodloe Harper Carroll who died in 1914 and he in turn was the father of Charles Carroll who died in 1931 and was the father of Charles Carroll, Jr., a prominent attorney-at-law now in Baltimore, Maryland. The last is a young man of whom is illustrious ancestor would be well proud. The Carroll line is now and always has been a credit to our nation.

CONCLUSION AND REVIEW

After Richard Henry Lee's famous resolution was offered to Continental Congress then convened in the Statehouse in Philadelphia, early in June, 1776, a committee consisting of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston was appointed to prepare a Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the document. It was corrected by Franklin and Adams and presented to Congress with Lee's resolution. On July 2, 1776 the resolution was passed but debates continued on the Declaration. Certain amendments were made and certain passages were stricken out and it was finally adopted as we now know it on July 4, 1776 at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The bellman of the Statehouse was at once notified and he rang our one and only Liberty Bell in announcement of the great news.

Some historians claim that all affirmative members present signed the Declaration on July 4th. Others claim that it was signed only by the President, John Hancock, while others that it was signed by John Hancock, the President and Charles Thompson, the Secretary of Congress. At any rate we know that it was voted upon and carried on that date. All historians are in agreement however that it was ordered to be "engrossed on parchment" and signed by the affirmative members. This was done and on August 2, 1776 all affirmative members signed with the exception of Thomas McKean, absent on military service, who signed in October and Dr. Matthew Thornton who did not come in as a congressman until Fall and he obtained permission to sign in November, 1776.

On January 13, 1777, Congress gave the order to circulate an authenticated printed copy with the printed names of members who had signed and sent to "each of the United States". These broadsides were printed in Baltimore by Mary Katherine Goddard and to each of them were attached the autographed signatures of John Hancock, President and Charles Thompson, Secretary.

As to the personnel of the Signers: Forty-eight were born on American soil. Eight were born on the British Isles: Three in Ireland; two in England; two in Scotland and one in Wales.

Religious training in some Christian faith was given all of them when they were children. There were no unbelievers in God in the group.

Twenty-seven of the Signers were college graduates. That was at a time when collegiate advantages were very much limited in comparison to the advantages of today. Twenty-five of those twenty-seven college graduates had studied in England. Twenty of the Signers who did not complete college received academic training. Therefore—and take notice, grade and high school pupils—almost eighty-four per cent of the Signers were men of education! The remaining nine were taught in common schools, received instruction in their homes, or hammered it out for themselves.

In the group were 34 attorneys, 13 farmers, 5 physicians, 2 mechanics,

one mason, one minister and one surveyor.

Edward Rutledge, the youngest, signed his name to the masterpiece when he was 27 years and 9 months old. (This is correct. The age of 26 as stated on page 73 is an error by the writer) Benjamin Franklin, the oldest, when he was 70 years and 7 months old. The average age of the whole fifty-six was 43 years and 10 months.

Benson J. Lossing wrote of them, "Not one of the Signers ever fell from the high estate to which that great act had elevated him."

This statement has been opened to controversy and the case of Button Gwinnett has been cited. But in this good man's defense it can be said that dueling was common and lawful in those days. Even our own beloved Alexander Hamilton fell in a duel a few years later. The ten years of debauchery in the early life of George Wythe is mentioned. Lossing said "... to which that great act had elevated him". If Mr Wythe sowed wild-oats it was years before he signed and it is well-known that he repented his wasted years and mended his ways. Likewise did the great St. Augustine. Therefore Lossing's statement is difficult to refute.

Another historian says of our Signers, that "the annals of the world can present no political body the lives of whose members, minutely traced, exhibit so much of the zeal of the patriot, dignified and chastened by the virtues of man".

And so they were born, lived, loved, administered and died; these Fifty-six Signers; leaving the United States of America, whose birth they attended, a better place in which to live by their efforts, with the assistance of the Father of Our Country, his army, his several state militias and his navy.

One by one as time passed the hand of Death diminished their numbers until at the beginning of 1826 only three remained. Then on July 4th of that year John Adams and Thomas Jefferson answered the call and that grand old man, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was the solitary living Signer. His home then became a mecca for American patriots and he lived on for another six years and four months. He lived in the midst of his beloved descendants and watched the older generations die out and new ones take their places. Neither was he inactive in a civic way during his remaining years. He became the builder of a railroad, if you please, and he put his house in order. And during his last few months he observed, reminisced of days gone by ... and prayed. He had always prayed because he was a good Catholic. But now he could pray and worship openly under the new government of the United States which he had helped to found.

And time and again as this aged layman knelt before the Altar of his God it may correctly be assumed that he closed his prayers in this manner: "... And may the souls of my Fifty-five Signer Compatriots, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen."

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